

From: Jane Kidd <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 9:23 AM
To: Rob Pingle
Subject: Booth Bay - Baker Road Beach Application

Dear Salt Spring Local Trust Committee

I am writing to express my concerns about the changes to the public beach environment proposed in the application File #1415573 submitted to the Ministry of Water, Land & Resources Stewardship. I am a long-term property owner on Salt Spring Island. I am very familiar with Booth Bay beach, I walk on this beach year-round and enjoy swimming in the sea and picnicking on the beach with friends and family during the summer months. Like many individuals on Salt Spring Island I have appreciated the natural marine environment of this public beach for many years.

The application describes the creation of four large gravel terraces covering a significant amount of the beach foreshore. I am concerned that the 85 truck loads of large gravel stated in the application and the potential of additional loads added in the future will significantly alter the ambience of this natural beach. Logs, driftwood, a variety of rocks, shells and other natural elements of foreshore habitat will be buried under this imported aggregate. The intrusion of this amount of imported material will create an engineered beach, inevitably altering the natural beauty of a beach environment that is appreciated by so many.

I am also concerned that the large amount of imported aggregate and the use of heavy equipment on the beach foreshore to distribute and place gravel and additional larger rocks will damage the marine habitat and marine life, which is particularly rich on the section of the beach. The application states that additional material will be added over time, suggesting that the placement of intrusive material will continue into the future. This would seem to limit the possible recovery of the natural habitat and marine life after the initial stage of this project. This also suggests that future restructuring of the beach and interference with the marine environment will be at the discretion of the property owners involved in this application. This would seem to be an unacceptable situation for a public resource.

Although I recognise the concerns about erosion that are core to this application, over the years that I have visited this beach I have been aware of minimal erosion. All four properties involved in this application are at the base of a steep escarpment, so must be subject to overland runoff, which may dislodge trees and debris from above the beach contribute to the perceived problem.

Information available in the application about the geology of the area and the environmental impact is very sparse. This makes it very difficult for concerned members of the public to fully understand and assess the implications of this application and certainly does not generate any confidence in the overall proposal. I feel it is a failing of this process that a public information session was not scheduled. It would seem that this project has implications for the marine environment and public enjoyment of Booth Bay beach as well as the potential for influencing future marine shoreline development and mitigations in other areas of the BC coast.

For the reasons I have discussed above and the lack of public engagement in this process I feel this application should be denied or at the very least delayed until all stakeholders can be properly informed and involved in this process. I sincerely hope the Island Trust will consider the concerns expressed by myself and other Salt Spring residents when reviewing this application.

Sincerely,
Jane Kidd

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Salt Spring Island



Canada

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I respectfully acknowledge I live and work within the ancestral and unceded territory of the Hul'qumi'num and Sencoten speaking people.