



Shoreline Fire Department

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Matt Cowan

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September 24, 2015

Ryan,

My name is Matt Cowan and I am the Fire Chief of Shoreline Fire Department. I am writing this letter today to add comments in consideration of the proposed Point Wells development. I gave input in response to the environment impact statement (EIS) study initiated last year, and while the draft of that study has not been completed, recent developments have prompted me to provide additional input, specifically in regards to the means of access for emergency services to the development.

As you know Shoreline Fire Department is in a difficult position. The proposed development is not in our Fire District, it is not in the City of Shoreline, or even in King County. Even though it is “likely” that Shoreline Fire will be the emergency provider to the development, it is not guaranteed. Currently, we provide services to Point Wells under a contract, but that could change depending on a number of scenarios that I won’t get into in this letter. We previously asked Snohomish County to recognize Shoreline Fire Department as the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) so that it would provide us the ability to weigh in on some of these pressing issues to which we were denied. Arguably, I believe that it is premature for Shoreline Fire to have that authority, at least until the EIS is issued, but it would certainly alleviate some of the complications that we face if we were the AHJ as it pertains to emergency services.

I received an e-mail last week, with an attached letter, from concerned residents in the Richmond Beach homeowners association regarding emergency vehicle access to the proposed development. The letter was from David Evans and Associates, which I believe is a consulting firm and that you have a copy of that letter as well. There are a few items in the letter that concern me which I feel compelled to respond to. The most significant of which is the assumption that the Department’s lack of additional comments in the EIS process regarding emergency access is our acquiescence to a single access point for emergency vehicles. That is absolutely not true.

Initial comments for the EIS stated that there are a number of factors to consider in the project before this Department could render a final decision on accessibility. We have not seen a final design for Richmond Beach Drive, the bridge or bridges over the railroad tracks, location of a fire station for the development, or a potential at grade access across the railroad tracks. All of which could influence our decision on what kind of access would be required by the fire department. Our lack of additional comments is because of the previously mentioned unknown factors, not that we approve of only one access point. To the contrary Shoreline Fire Department’s expectation is that a second means of access for emergency vehicles would likely be needed. Furthermore, we have had informal communications with the developer discussing some of the challenges with this site and different potential options for the second access point.

While Shoreline Fire Department will not make a final decision on access until we have an opportunity to review the designs in greater detail and mitigation efforts, as the Fire Chief, I am compelled to provide these additional comments in response to the letter from David Evans and Associates. If this development is to proceed, and if Shoreline Fire Department will be providing emergency services, this Department needs to be provided the authority to take a more active role in design review, etc. as soon as it is appropriate.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns that you would like for us to address. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Cowan
Fire Chief