From: sue odonnell
To: PDS comments
Subject: "Replacement Guemes Ferry Proposal"
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2018 4:22:40 PM

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re: environmental review:

My family lives on Guemes Island and we either drive our car or walk onto the ferry 1-2 times per week. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed new ferry for Guemes Island and it's probable impact on the environment.

Guemes Channel, being a major shipping lane in Skagit County, already suffers impacts. Our shorelines, water quality, the sea floor, air we breathe, lives of birds and sea creatures, safety of seafood, recreational boating, lovely views are constantly at risk of accidental fuel spills, engine fires, discarded refuse, noise pollution, pollution from boat motors and more.

Now that it's time to make a change from our old, smelly, noisy ferry of many years, we thought we were being offered the perfect solution - an electric ferry. Welllll, not so fast! As it turns out, an electric ferry is way too expensive, in fact NOT affordable.

Some think the current ferry can be re-engineered to work just fine. The old smelly, polluting engine can be replaced with a much quieter and efficient one which will use more efficient fuels.

The plan is also for the for the new ferry to carry more cars than our current one. This is not a good idea. Guemes is about maxed out as far as fresh well water, so there is not room for much more building. We hope for success for rain catchment systems. Reverse osmosis uses about 2 gallons of fresh water for every gallon saved to drink, I am told.

Summers see a big influx of part-timers and renters. It is not essential for them to have instant service. Waiting in line is part of the deal.

Let's slow down and rethink. The battery system is not perfect and will bring new problems - storage, disposal, power outages.

Sincerely NOT sold on the expensive electric ferry.

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