From: Michael-JoAnne Gray
To: PDS comments
Subject: Guemes Island Ferry Replacement Project (enviromental review)
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 2:18:04 PM

Ryan,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding the environmental impact aspects of the proposed replacement ferry.

We are Michael and JoAnne Gray, residents at 4898 N Indian Village LN. Our family has had property on Guemes since 1959. We are neither members of the Guemes Island Ferry Committee or GIPAC , thus these comments are our own relative to our opinions regarding the environmental impact of the proposed new electric or a Diesel electric-powered hybrid Ferry. We are in support of a new ferry to replace the existing Diesel ferry with one that is electricity powered. Our reasons for our supporting an electric powered ferry are its positive impact on island living quality-of-life (e.g. wait time, fewer service outages and delays) and the environment.

From the information available on the Guemes Island Replacement web-site, that presented at the last community forum and other research having an electric ferry could result in zero emissions or very little emissions in the case of the hybrid. Zero emissions could result in the elimination of hundreds of tons of greenhouse gasses annually as well as eliminate toxic hydraulic fluids, burnt Diesel fuel solids and oil being introduced to the water. Crew and passengers would no longer be exposed to toxic fumes or excessive noise.

We do not share the concern the proposed replacement ferry would induce growth on the island and thus have a negative effect on the Guemes environment or the Guemes aquifer. Our belief is the aquifer and other Guemes natural resources and public properties should be protected by managing its use and not by trying to control growth by restricting size or use of the new ferry.

We believe the county has done a remarkable job to position an electric ferry option in order to attain funds that would otherwise not be available for such a project. I am referring to the 10 million dollar grant and a portion of the Volkswagen fund. These funding sources seem to be a one-of-a-kind opportunity and avlong term missed opportunity should the County be precluded from moving forward with the project.

We also believe there are compelling cost savings to replacing the ferry and that refurbishing the existing ferry would result in extreme inconveniences (such as 6 to 12 months to replace the engines and reinforce aged structures), being much more expensive to operate with the result that we would end up re-visiting this issue in ten years or less.

Thank you for providing the opportunity=to comment.

Michael and JoAnne Gray