

**Grage, Libby**

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**From:** Tim Hyatt <thyatt@skagitcoop.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 22, 2014 4:19 PM  
**To:** Stan Walsh; Larry Wasserman  
**Cc:** Measamer, Don; Grage, Libby  
**Subject:** RE: Guemes Channel Trail Ph. 7, staff recommended conditions

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Stan & Larry—

I spoke with Don Measamer at City of Anacortes a few moments ago, about the permit conditions they have proposed for the Guemes Trail Phase VII project (see below). I wanted to clarify a few things, and voice some reservation about Condition #1, and a few other ideas that were not captured by the proposed conditions.

Condition #1 puts a lot of emphasis on the field marking of the clearing limits. If SRSC is not satisfied with the extent to which riparian vegetation is being preserved, or the extent to which “the trail alignment shall maximize the setback between the shoreline and the trail” then at that point we will have no leverage to make changes. Don assured me that the Anacortes staff are committed to moving the trail as far inland (within their ownership) as possible. He agreed to insert the term “to the maximum extent feasible” into the operative phrase in Condition #1. He clearly wants our participation in the field marking exercise, and I assured him that we would be there.

Don said that the Anacortes Parks Department is already committed to planting the available areas along the Phase I trail, and that they intend to use 1.5” dbh trees as a start (not just the typical saplings commonly used).

The plans to place quarry spalls upslope of the retaining walls has been scrapped. Now the excavation limits will be confined to the minimum to construct the retaining walls, with enough quarry-spall backfill to assure drainage, but no more.

In some areas the retaining walls will be doubled in height, to allow the trail to be built further inland, and allow for a wider planting strip along the shoreline.

There isn't a way to write a permit condition that guarantees stronger protection against riparian view clearing, but the City of Anacortes has been tossing around ideas on the subject for a while and this is an opportunity to put things into effect. One measure will be landowner education, to make clear that view clearing requires SMP (and CAO?) authorization. Another is to use the existing provision in the SMP that allows view cutting, but not if there's an impact on the nearshore. That provision was not being fully applied in this area before, but now will trigger a requirement for a biological assessment that will assure no-net-loss of riparian function. Any view clearing that decreases shade in the nearshore will, in the future, have to be fully mitigated.

Beyond that, Don said he would send word to their GIS person to make available to SRSC whatever terrain model or topographic layer they've been using along this stretch of beach and bluff. I plan to do some computer and perhaps field reconnaissance in advance of the field marking, to look for the most intact riparian stands, as well as the places where it is or is not feasible to pull the trail back from the shore.

In addition to the other email I sent earlier today about the backsloping of the revetment, I think this covers most of our concerns to date. Don may have corrections or clarifications to what I've tried to capture from our conversation. If so, please don't hesitate to respond.

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**From:** Grage, Libby [mailto:LibbyB@cityofanacortes.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 22, 2014 8:42 AM  
**To:** Tim Hyatt

**Cc:** Measamer, Don

**Subject:** Guemes Channel Trail Ph. 7, staff recommended conditions

Good morning Tim,

Thank you for meeting with us on-site yesterday to discuss the construction of the next phase of the Guemes Channel Trail. Per our discussion, please see below for additional conditions which staff will recommend to the Planning Commission be incorporated into the shoreline substantial development permit for the project:

1. Prior to commencing clearing and grading, clearing limits shall be marked in the field. The project biologist in conjunction with city staff, the project engineer and appropriate agencies shall conduct a site visit to identify opportunities to minimize impacts to riparian vegetation through trail location and design, which may include meandering the trail to increase space for vegetation retention or re-planting between the trail and the top of bank. The trail alignment shall maximize the setback between the shoreline and the trail while remaining within the existing available right-of-way and avoiding impacts to slope stability.
2. Riparian vegetation shall be planted in selected locations along the existing and new sections of trail to increase beach shading as determined by the project biologist, WDFW, and the Parks Department. A vegetation monitoring plan shall be prepared and implemented consistent with city and WDFW standards.
3. Beach nourishment shall be provided consistent with WDFW requirements on a continuing basis. If deemed appropriate, project excavation material shall be utilized for nourishment. Monitoring shall be conducted on a yearly basis consistent with WDFW standards.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

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