



February 24, 2014

Darryl Eastin – Principal Planner
Snohomish County Planning and Development Services
3000 Rockefeller Ave. M/S 604
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Mr. Eastin,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the EIS scoping process for Point Wells. Our primary concern is with safe routes for bicyclists and pedestrians. The roads and sidewalks in the vicinity of Point Wells are on a favorite cycling route for many of our group members. We use these roads for local bike rides and to bike to Shoreline and Seattle. There are currently many bicyclists and pedestrians in the area and there will be many more after the Point Wells site is developed.

In addition there is growing interest and support for bicycle riding for children to reduce childhood obesity and promote healthy lifestyles, so you have the potential for significant safety issues. Two elementary schools (Sherwood and Madrona) that actively participate in our “Basics Of Bicycling” program in the Edmonds School District are located nearby. Those young students will be increasingly participating in more after-school cycling activities in the vicinity, which creates more safety concerns as the vehicle traffic increases from added development.

At present, the roads, especially Richmond Beach Road and Woodway Park Road, the main bicycle commuter links, are only marginally safe for bicyclists. With the anticipated significant increase in traffic almost all roads will become unsafe. Similarly, connectivity to the surrounding communities of Shoreline, Woodway and Edmonds is important, not just for motorists, but for all users. Because of limited right of way and steep grades it will be difficult and costly to provide the necessary separation between bicyclists and pedestrians, especially with the exponential increase in vehicles expected after development. The developer has said he will provide for bicyclists, and it is important to hold the developer to this commitment.

Sincerely,

Jan Niemi, Co-Chair
Peter Hallson, Co-Chair
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Raising safety awareness for both cyclists and pedestrians
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