

Mr. Tony Kantas, Associate Planner
Thurston County Planning Department
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Olympia, WA 98502-6045
Tony Kantas kantast@co.thurston.wa.us

Re: Application by Pacific Northwest Aquaculture for geoduck farm in
Zangle Cove estuary; Project #2014108800; Parcel Number 12911440102

**COMMENTS ON
MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**
State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
Project No. 2014108800

Applicant: ChangMook Sohn

These comments are submitted in response to the Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance ("MDNS") issued by Thurston County Resource Stewardship Department in accordance with TCC 17.09.090 and WAC 197-11 Part Five. We object to the MDNS because we believe there will be significant impacts associated with the proposed geoduck farm:

1. Eelgrass. The MDNS notes the importance of eelgrass but finds no impact to eelgrass from the proposed project. The MDNS should find that the Washington State Department of Natural Resources in conjunction with the US Department of Energy is undertaking an eelgrass restoration project within Zangle Cove and that Thurston County has designated Zangle Cove as an area to be protected in the final draft of the Thurston County Shoreline Master Program Update Inventory and Characterization Report prepared June 2013. Eelgrass has been documented on the Zangle Cove tideland by GPS coordinates on or near to the Sohn tideland. The eelgrass restoration project is ongoing and critical to the goals for Puget Sound.

2. Aesthetic and Other Environmental Impacts. Over 15 residences are located within inner Zangle Cove. There are no existing geoduck farms in our marine neighborhood. A geoduck farm will bring noise, pollution from plastics and other sources, and visual impairment of our views. The plastics are toxic to marine life and create litter. We have picked up plastic litter from our beaches that has escaped from other aquaculture enterprises. Imagine what we will be dealing with if the Sohns' project is approved.

The Sohns will see little, if any, of their geoduck farm from their home, which sits high above the shoreline on the bluff. We, the Zangle Cove residents and users of Zangle Cove, will get to view the Sohns' nets and approximately 48,000 plastic tubes every time there's a low tide. The lowest tides occur during spring and summer months when recreation is most active. Unlike the pastoral views afforded by a well-tended farm on land, a geoduck farm is, simply put, offensive. There is no way to disguise this blight on the shoreline. We believe the farm will devalue our properties. And once one geoduck farm is allowed, a precedent is set for others to follow.

3. Recreation. The neighborhood of Zangle Cove is part of the Boston Harbor community. Boston Harbor has a busy, full-service marina. Zangle Cove is a frequent and well-used destination for boaters and kayakers from the Boston Harbor Marina, the neighborhood itself as well as other areas of South Puget Sound. Aside from adversely impacting the picturesque qualities of our cove, a geoduck farm brings noise and commercial traffic into a rural, recreational area.

Many of us have previously submitted written comments concerning this project. We incorporate all of our prior comments into this comment.

The commercial interests of one owner within Zangle Cove should be required to yield to the environmental, aesthetic, and recreational concerns of their neighbors. We urge the Thurston County Resource Stewardship Department to reverse its MDNS and issue a Determination of Significance.

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Address: _____