

Online Comment by User: susanholliday

Submitted on: 10/27/2006 8:06:00 PM

Comment Category: Other Environmental Effects

Comment Location: Chapter-1, Page-1

Address: 3909 NE Surber Dr, Seattle, WA 98105

Comment:

Dear Mr. Krueger,

I-0908-001

Save Union Bay Association has been in existence for over 30 years and has been instrumental in dealing with environmental issues of Union Bay. These issues include milfoil intrusion, motor boat speed, wetlands management, and the Green Lake pipeline (a plan by Seattle Parks Department to pipe water from Green Lake into Union Bay.) Because the SR520 Replacement Project will have major impact on Union Bay, we plan to be involved and work with the other environmental agencies to propose mitigation.

As mentioned in the DEIS, one of the issues with the bridge replacement and the Pacific Street interchange is the effect on salmon and other wildlife that inhabit Union Bay. A major problem with Union Bay is that it has become shallower over the years due to erosion of shorelines, UW construction projects, storm water run-off, and increased growth of aquatic weeds. In addition, the lake temperature has risen and blue green algae have increased in concentration. These factors create a toxic environment for wildlife, especially salmon and frogs. We are concerned that, because the construction will occur in the deep water part of Union Bay, salmon will be displaced into the shallow, warm water and will be less likely to survive. We believe that there are ways to mitigate the effects of construction and of the completed project.

I-0908-002

Save Union Bay Association is acutely aware of the transportation crisis involving SR520 and we are in favor of the 6 lane alternative and the Pacific Street Interchange. We know that this option will cause great distress during construction but that the expansion of SR520 is needed to meet transportation demands in the future. It is likely that there will be modifications to the Pacific Street interchange in response to University of Washington and community needs. We do not plan to dispute issues concerning project design and land options. Our concern is the viability of Union Bay and its wildlife.

Please add us to your mailing list. We will be in contact with you as the mitigation process begins. We will also be amiling a paper copy of this letter to you.

Sincerely Yours,

Susan Holliday, Ph.D. Steve Sulzbacher Ph.D.
President Vice President
Save Union Bay Association

I-0908-001

Comment Summary:

Fish Effects

Response:

See Section 16.2 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.

I-0908-002

Comment Summary:

Pacific Street Interchange Option

Response:

See Section 1.2 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.