

**WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**
County Courthouse
311 Grand Avenue, Suite #108
Bellingham, WA 98225-4082



Jack Louws
County Executive

May 15, 2014

Protect Lummi Island Community
P.O. Box 266
Lummi Island, WA 98262

Dear PLIC Board of Directors,

I would like to thank you for your comments regarding the pending Gooseberry Point Dolphin Replacement Project. Your concerns are focused on delaying the project in an effort to alter the current design to accommodate larger ship(s). At this writing, I continue to support moving the project forward.

It is correct that the permitting and design of this project have been completed and construction of the project is anticipated in 2014. Public Works has worked diligently on this replacement project due to the poor condition of the existing timber dolphins at Gooseberry Point. They have valid concerns that failure of these structures pose a safety issue and could lead to an extended service outage of the Whatcom Chief. Replacing the existing timber dolphins with the proposed steel pile supported dolphins will ensure safe and reliable berthing for the Whatcom Chief at the Gooseberry Point terminal.

Attempting to design the current dolphins to accommodate a larger ferry for which there are no design parameters (such as vessel geometry, berthing energy, etc.) is not a generally accepted practice for a Professional Marine Engineer. However, the current design does provide approximately eight (8) feet more than the Chief beam width within the berthing facility for a ferry larger than the Whatcom Chief. Certainly changes may need to be made in the future when the "guess work" related to size, impact loadings, etc. will be known if another ship is considered for use at the dock.

Although no decisions have been made, Public Works is currently pursuing a feasibility assessment for the vehicular ferry the TREK to determine the vessels ability to interface with the Gooseberry Point and Lummi Island terminals. This ferry is of similar beam to the Whatcom Chief and will easily fit within the proposed dolphins at the Gooseberry Point terminal. The review of the TREK is being conducted in concert with Skagit County as an alternate Ferry. Your letter also noted the Lummi Island terminal. Public Works is in the preliminary engineering phase of replacing the three remaining timber dolphins and analyzing the southerly breakwater. Preliminary information estimates those replacements in 2016 or 2017.

Again, thank you for your comments. Should you have any additional questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jack Louws", is written over a printed name and title.

Jack Louws,
County Executive

cc: Whatcom County Council Members