

# Waterfront Redevelopment Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Information Sheet

## What is going on?

On April 17, the Port of Bellingham began a formal process for the environmental review of the waterfront master planning effort. The Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires state and local agencies to identify significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. The Port is the lead SEPA agency for the New Whatcom redevelopment project and will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to help agency decision makers and the public better understand environmental impacts. Once it is completed, the Port of Bellingham and the City of Bellingham will use the results to make waterfront redevelopment decisions. This environmental review process starts with a public comment period in which the public can tell us what environmental impacts they want studied and considered as this project is reviewed.

## How do people find out more?

Copies of the "Draft Scoping Document" are available to the public at no charge at the Port of Bellingham Administration Office front desk at 1801 Roeder Avenue during regular business hours. This also can be reviewed online at the Port's website by going to the **Waterfront Redevelopment** section labeled **Latest News**.

[www.portofbellingham.com/content/ArchivesItem\\_147\\_524\\_v](http://www.portofbellingham.com/content/ArchivesItem_147_524_v)

Some people might have heard of the "SEPA Document". This is the same thing as the "Draft Scoping Document" noted above.

## How do people comment on the scoping document?

You have several ways to comment and all work equally well. You can testify at one of two public hearings, you can mail written comments or you can email the Port of Bellingham. This is a very formal process and it is important to submit comments in the ways shown below. Informal comments given to other organizations, boards or commissions or to Port or City staff will not become part of the official record. All comments that relate to the scoping will be addressed during the process, whether they relate to an issue raised by one person or by 100 people.

Here are the details about submitting comments:

### Public Hearings:

These will begin with a brief project presentation and explanation of the EIS project

**6-9 p.m. April 25, Bellingham Municipal Courthouse, 2014 C Street**

**6-9 p.m. May 2, Bellingham Municipal Courthouse, 2014 C Street**

### Written Comments:\*

#### Through the Mail:

SEPA Responsible Official

Port of Bellingham

PO Box 1677

Bellingham, WA 98227-1677

#### By Email:

[sepaofficial@portofbellingham.com](mailto:sepaofficial@portofbellingham.com)

#### At Port Offices:

Drop off at 1801 Roeder Ave.

during business hours

**\*The Port will send all comments to the SEPA Official.**

### Comment Deadline:

***All comments must be received by May 11, 2007, for consideration in the proposed scope of the EIS.***

### Who's involved?

The Port of Bellingham (not the City of Bellingham) is charged with overseeing the environmental review of this redevelopment planning effort. When the first notice of this process was issued, Port Environmental Director **Mike Stoner** was the SEPA official.

That has changed because Mr. Stoner has been assigned to be part of the Port's waterfront project management team. The Port Commission appointed Seattle attorney **Andrew Maron** to serve as the Alternate SEPA Official for the project. Maron, of the Seattle law firm of Short, Cressman and Burgess,

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will serve in a role similar to that of a judge, making sure the process is properly administered and conducting formal hearings. People can call him with questions about the EIS process, but he won't be involved in the ongoing project efforts. People should not submit scoping comments directly to Andrew Maron, but should use the process noted above. Andrew Maron's phone number is (206) 515-2247

If people have questions about the project, upcoming public workshops or other project issues, contact the Port of Bellingham's Communications Manager **Carolyn Casey** at 360-676-2500 or email [info@portofbellingham.com](mailto:info@portofbellingham.com) .