



San Juan County
Marine Resources Committee
915 Spring St – PO Box 729
Friday Harbor, WA 98250



July 5, 2016

Tom Slocum
Chair, SRFB Review Panel
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Lower Zylstra Lake acquisition (#16-1293)

Dear Chairman Slocum,

The Marine Resources Committee asks that the Review Panel approve Zylstra Lake for funding. We are submitting it as our top priority for PSAR Early Action funding.

The Lower Zylstra Lake acquisition, proposed by the San Juan Preservation Trust, is the first key step to the larger ecosystem restoration and recovery of False Bay Creek and False Bay. The two lakes together hold *the* senior water right in this watershed. The total water right is for 285 acre feet of water. With the security of a guaranteed water supply to the creek, a large amount of community interest has developed for this project.

The San Juan County Land Bank is a partner in the acquisition. The Land Bank is taking the lead in securing funding for Upper Zylstra Lake. The San Juan Preservation Trust is taking the lead for the purchase of the lower Lake. Purchase of the lower Lake by itself will extinguish 12 developable lots. Once funding is secured, each entity will hold an easement for the other. The focus of this funding is fish and wildlife conservation, with recreation a secondary benefit in the Upper Lake with limited area and season.

The Conservation District (SJICD) is taking a leadership role in the restoration of False Bay Creek. They have applied for salmon recovery funding for a conservation easement on a large parcel in lower False Bay Creek that abuts the UW parcel. This is the first step towards restoration of this parcel. The SJICD also has a grant through the Department of Ecology to study the hydrology of Zylstra Lake and False Bay Creek to develop a restoration strategy.

The University of Washington, which owns the lowest intertidal portion of False Bay Creek plus False Bay itself, is an additional partner. They understand the importance of this project to deliver year-round, clean, high quality water to the bay; the bay is one of their San Juan Islands - Biological Preserves. As part of the Coastal Wetlands grants that the Land Bank applied for, UW agreed to sign a Notice of Federal Participation (like a



san juan county
marine stewardship area
our sea • our source • our future

San Juan County
Marine Resources Committee
915 Spring St - PO Box 729
Friday Harbor, WA 98250



conservation easement) for their upland False Bay Creek and the entire False Bay ownership, to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This means the bay and the creek mouth will be held in perpetuity for conservation.

Finally, San Juan County Public Works is working to rectify potential stormwater issues in False Bay watershed.

The community is working together for restoration and protection of Zylstra Lake, False Bay, and False Bay watershed.

Best Regards,

Terry Turner

Chair, San Juan Islands Citizens Advisory Group and Marine Resources Committee