

Shaun Hubbard

To Washington Department of Ecology:

As a resident of San Juan Island and Washington State, I am speaking up for the health of our county and state's environment-economy by requesting a denial of the 401 Water Quality Certification.

The Columbia River may be many miles away from our homes in the San Juan Islands, but we are all connected by the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales (aka orcas). Our islands' icons swim that distance for sustenance – Columbia Chinook salmon (also listed as endangered). The proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals coal export project in Longview, if approved, would increase the number of vessels navigating the Columbia to and from Asia. Any increase in ships, and their hazardous cargo and fuel, elevates the risk of accidents and spills in the river and surrounding coastal waters – salmon waters – further jeopardizing the orcas' fragile existence. In San Juan County, our tourism economy and island way of life are inseparable from the fate of the orcas. For islanders, protecting them is both a federal and personal mandate. The coal terminal's environmental reviews reveal a multitude of adverse impacts to Chinook salmon as a result of this project. These are negative repercussions that will eventually reach our islands. Please deny the 401 Water Quality Certification for this project. Thank you.