LARA LORENZ

Dear Review Board,

As a Seattle resident I am very concerned with the statistic that as much as 80% of estuary habitat in Washington State has been lost and much of what remains is threatened by rising ocean levels. We must allow shorelines and estuaries to naturally migrate inland as sea levels rise.

No net loss has been a fundamental principle in shoreline management since 2003 but is not working. Significant shoreline environmental function has been lost since then and losses continue today.

Regulations with teeth (i.e. enforced consequences) need to be strengthened. For example, 85% of new shoreline armoring installed in Island County between 2016 and 2023 was unpermitted. As such, I feel you sould mandate enforcement by clearly specifying the exact circumstances under which a local government must enforce its SMP, require the removal of any hard shoreline stabilization or structures built without approval, and finally require performance and maintenance bonds for all environmental mitigation projects to ensure long-term accountability.

Respectfully,
Lara Lorenz