

Mark Ozias



Board of Clallam County Commissioners

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From the Desk of
COMMISSIONER MARK OZIAS

August 14, 2024

Gayle Garbush
Southwest Region Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Dear Ms. Garbush:

Thank you for the Department of Ecology's continued attention to the health of our natural environment and to the department's forthcoming determination regarding Project Macoma.

I support this pilot project and urge Ecology to issue Project Macoma a final NPDES Wastewater Discharge Permit.

Permanently removing CO₂ from the atmosphere is necessary to avert the worst consequences of climate change. Furthermore, Washington State, including the Salish Sea and the North Olympic Peninsula, are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and coastal acidification.

The marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) technology that Project Macoma would use is currently being demonstrated in my District at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) at Sequim in a partnership that also includes the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the University of Washington. Through this partnership the Project Macoma team is validating the safety and efficacy of their technology while working with world leading scientists to better understand the local marine environment and inform how mCDR technology can be used to help address coastal acidification.

The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine have emphasized that pilot projects like Project Macoma are critical for advancing the field of marine carbon dioxide removal. This 2-year pilot project offers an opportunity to rigorously test and validate a promising approach to carbon dioxide removal. Innovative, science-based pilot projects like Project Macoma are an example of the kind of science-led projects that the State's Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification, Marine Resources Advisory Council, state legislature, and Governor Inslee have called for to help solve these existential threats.

Developing this technology in Clallam County will help our region continue leading in the development and deployment of innovative negative emissions technologies. Furthermore, Project Macoma represents an opportunity for homegrown innovation with global impact. The project could help modernize and diversify our

regional economy by creating prosperity-wage jobs and providing our community the chance to engage with this promising technology at the ground floor.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important matter and for Ecology's continued dedication to protecting communities and ecosystems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ozias', written in a cursive style.

Mark Ozias
Board of County Commissioners
Clallam County Commissioner, District 1