

Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin

(comment attached in PDF file)

August 17, 2024

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

SUPPORT:
Project Macoma's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
Wastewater Discharge Permit

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. Project Macoma is the proposed 2-year pilot project seeking to remove legacy carbon pollution from the atmosphere and improve water quality in Port Angeles.

As a current Port Angeles city council member and former field science educator, I urge Ecology to issue Project Macoma a final NPDES Wastewater Discharge Permit under Chapter 90.48 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and Chapter 173-216 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

I agree with the Tier II analysis that finds that the drawdown of atmospheric CO₂ affected by Ebb Carbon's technology is necessary and in the public interest. Permanently removing CO₂ from the atmosphere is necessary to keep global warming below 1.5°C or 2.0°C above pre industrial levels to avert the worst consequences of climate change. 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.

Washington State, including the Salish Sea and the Port Angeles Harbor, are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and coastal acidification. 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.

Furthermore, the marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) technology that Project Macoma would use is currently being demonstrated at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) at Sequim in partnership with PNNL, 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. Developing this technology in Port Angeles will help our city and the state meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals, combat the impacts of ocean acidification, and continue leading in the development and deployment of innovative negative emissions technologies. Specifically, Project Macoma supports the [City of Port Angeles Climate Resiliency Plan's](#) strategy to invest in new opportunities for carbon sequestration and storage to preserve forest and marine habitats.

In addition to the environmental benefits, 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. Project Macoma has the potential to spur economic activity in the community by creating jobs related to the construction and operation of the facility.

We need all options on the table to address climate change:

- continuing to mitigate new emissions,
- nature-based climate solutions, and
- sequestration technologies like Project Macoma.

Ebb Carbon is working with government scientists to develop a technology that works for our collective ecological goals and is collaborating with appropriate governance systems to ensure the technology benefits our whole community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important matter and for Ecology's continued dedication to protecting communities and ecosystems from the worst impacts of climate change.

Sincerely,



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