Dan Miller

I am opposed to the estuary plan for a variety of reasons. It will abandon the Capitol plan that has guided campus construction from the beginning. The capitol will no longer have a reflecting pool and will no longer be one of the most beautiful in the nation.

This estuary plan has been pushed forward because of mismanagement. Capitol Lake was designed as a sediment trap. a job it does very well. It prevents the lower Budd Inlet, the marinas and The Port of Olympia from being clogged with sediment. This active sediment trap requires periodic dredging maintenance which the State has not done. This inaction is why the lake is shallow and clogged with silt. It was dredged before in the 1980"s and that is why we have the interpretive area ponds. That is where they dumped the spoils. Every wastwater structure requires maintenance, this one is no different and the State has failed to perform it.

The concept of an estuary has been sold in a very misleading way. They say it will be beautiful. It will not, It will be a stinking mudflat exactly like Mud Bay, They say it will provide recreation, It will not. It will only be accessible for a few hours at high tide and then only by boat. I challenge you to go to Mud Bay and observe all of the recreation...there is none.
Then I read what is planned. Closing the parkway for 3 years? Building a 4' berm around the lake? Do you realize the impact of closing the parkway and the cost of that berm? This berm is to address sea level rise but it is only a portion of the shoreline. Will downtown be left to flood? If sea level rise is really a concern, why did Olympia build their city hall in the flood plain?

Finally, when the dam is torn out the sediment flush till quickly clog the harbor and lower inlet. Is the burden of dredging this out going to fall on the private land owners? Will the Army Corp be willing dredge the port >again< because of your actions? I see many lawsuits on your horizon. The plan includes dredging to mitigate some of the siltation. Wouldn't it make more sense and be a lot more cost effective to just do the planned dredging maintenance on the sediment trap and preserve our beautiful lake?