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Subject: North Jetty Cove Project public comment, SD-22-00001 PF-22-00001
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Hello,

My name is Rachele and I am submitting a public comment regarding the North Jetty Cove project permit application.

As a resident of the town of Vantage I am very displeased at the current proposed plan submitted by Grant county regarding the vantage waterfront. For the last two years grant county has refused to reach middle ground regarding management of the vantage waterfront as well as letting a once beautiful green and free place for every person not only visiting vantage but traveling along I-90 to visit, become ugly and unsafe. I have grown up going to the beach at Vantage and enjoying the beautiful fountain and have many wonderful memories there. It is iconic not only as a current resident of Vantage, but also for people passing through the center of the state. I had planned on raising my children to enjoy running through the fountain and having a nice green park to play in the water as well, but the current plan would make that impossible. I have also spoken with many strangers dismayed at both the current state of the waterfront and lamenting the fond memories of its prior beauty.

As the only beach accessible to the Columbia river besides the state park on the west side of the vantage bridge between rock island and wanapum dam, the current plan to remove infrastructure to keep green grass would severely impact not only the enjoyment and safety of such a beautiful landmark in Washington but I believe it would also impact the local businesses as well since removing such a iconic and beautiful landmark would discourage people from even stopping. While the waterfront can indeed be improved I believe the current plan to take out existing electrical and water would be a mistake. The current electrical provides evening lighting for those that are near the water at night, removing it would make it unsafe for people to explore in the dark as well as making it difficult for boats to navigate back to the boat launch in reference to land. Removing existing water and plumbing for the fountain would make the jetty return to dirt and weeds, which has already happened over the last two years, and makes it difficult for children to walk through and increases risk of rattle snakes (which I have already encountered) and other hazards again making it unsafe for children to enjoy being near the water. Third, removing the existing infrastructure, rather than improving it I feel would be wasteful and environmentally unnecessary. The existing working structures, could be improved rather than taken out or even replaced thereby reducing unnecessary waste and impact on the environment. Having already removed the docks, the only access point for people loading onto boats is at the beach or boat launch, neither of which are ideal or safe places for people to load onto boats. Taking away the docks, means longer load times at the boat launch waiting for people to get onto the boat, or making boats go into the jetty marina, where children are playing at the beach, to load up therefore adding unnecessary risk to swimmers along the beach as opposed to keeping them at the docks where swimmers are not located.

Reworking the submitted plan to accommodate for safe access to the beach and keeping it green, while also keeping the existing structures would be a better plan and one that many people are in favor of.

Thank you for your time, please do not hesitate to reach out regarding any questions.

Best,
Rachele O'Leary

