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**Public Comment**

Dear City Council and City of Sammamish,

The following comments reflect my ongoing concerns about the need to re-establish the 100 percent retention standard for development of the Town Center. When the Town Center was first proposed, it was recognized by the Council that the Town Center area was in the watersheds for Ebright Creek and George Davis Creek. In an effort to encourage development of Town Center the storm water protections were reduced such that runoff impacts to Ebright Creek, one of the most important spawning creeks for our endangered Kokanee salmon, have increased.

I have lived on Ebright Creek since 1973. During that time I have noticed slow adverse changes in the ecology and hydrology of the creek. Flooding events have been more numerous during the winter months and on a number of occasions Ebright Creek has gone over its bank and flooded my home and property.

Of particular concern has been several catastrophic, creek-blocking slides which severely damaged Ebright Creek and impacted my property. Of particular note is a slide on March 26, 2011 that sent a large mud slide just downstream from the Chestnut Estates. This slide all but eliminated the eggs and developing fry from the 2010/2011 kokanee spawning run as verified by King County from the results of the fry trapping by Trout Unlimited at the mouth of the creek.

This tragic loss of the entire natural production from that year-class of kokanee underscores the importance of protections of the steep slopes and watershed of Ebright Creek, as well as the watersheds of the other spawning creeks which drain into Lake Sammamish and provide important spawning habitat for our endangered kokanee salmon.

It is noteworthy that these large "blow out" slides have occurred since the onset of housing developments on the eastside of the Ebright Canyon along 2012th Ave SE and further upstream in the Ebright Creek watershed. Now we have the potential for increased runoff impacts to the Ebright Creek drainage from the development of Town Center.

In the 30 years prior to these housing developments, no major slides were reported nor did I observe any. I don't believe this is a mere coincidence. To the contrary this timeline strongly suggests that the complete removal of the forest cover and subsequent runoff from these developments in the watershed contributed to these major slides and the subsequent damage to the creek and its fish and other fauna, and my property. This cause and effect suggests that the current restrictions on sensitive slopes need to be tightened up, not relaxed, as some would suggest.

I have been an active member of the Kokanee Working Group (KWG), an ad-hoc collaborative group formed in 2007 to prevent the extinction and improve the health of our native kokanee salmon. At the outset the KWG identified a number of probable causes for the decline of the Lake Sammamish kokanee and have been working cooperatively with the City and other organizations and volunteers to reverse the decline of our Kokanee salmon. I personally replaced a blocking culvert on my property at considerable cost that tripled the spawning area available to spawning kokanee salmon.

The City and other KWG partners are moving projects forward as funds become available so as to reverse the decline of the native Lake Sammamish kokanee and rebuild the run to the point where the population will once

again support a recreational fishery and enhance those faunal elements that prey on kokanee. The remarkable success of my Ebright culvert replacement demonstrates conclusively that with proper watershed protections and collaborative efforts rehabilitation of our kokanee can become a reality.

Unfortunately, the success of our collaborative endeavors, including my culvert replancement, will be for naught if the watersheds of the important kokanee spawning streams and the streams themselves are not protected. As the slides in Ebright Canyon have clearly demonstrated, these natural runs of kokanee salmon face a precarious situation. These challenges to the survival of our kokanee will only increase with further development and climate change. The fate of our iconic Little Red Fish rests in large measure in the hands of those who control and manage development in the watersheds of our creeks that flow into Lake Sammamish.

The City of Sammamish and the City Council in particular hold the key to the sustainability of the Lake Sammamish kokanee populations. For that reason I strongly recommend that special attention be given to 100% stormwater retention in Town Center and other developments in the Ebright Creek watershed.

Thank you for consideration of my concerns.

Regards,  
Wally Pereyra