

PUGET SOUNDKEEPER® ALLIANCE

November 29, 2005

Mr. Joe Burcar
Shoreline Planner
Island County Planning and Community Development
P.O. Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239

Dear Mr. Burcar:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Limited Scope – EIS for the Nichols Brothers Building Inc. 15-year phased development plan.

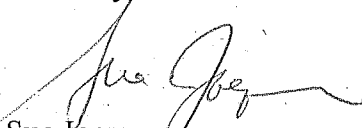
The mission of the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance is to protect the waters of Puget Sound from harmful pollutants.

The Puget Soundkeeper Alliance has been involved in monitoring the development and implementation of the Nichols Brothers National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology. We are particularly concerned with the discharge of heavy metals including copper, which is harmful to salmon at levels below the State's water-quality standards.

The Puget Soundkeeper Alliance is alarmed that the upcoming Environmental Impact Statement will not address the impact of the development plan on water quality from the ship building and repair activities at Nichols Brothers. Stormwater runoff, discharges from hydrologically-connected groundwater to surface waters, overflows of infiltration basins and saltwater intrusion into the wetland are all good reasons why the impact of the proposed development on water quality in Holmes Harbor must be addressed in the EIS.

The Puget Soundkeeper Alliance recommends that the Limited Scope EIS be broadened to fully address the impact of the development plan on surface water and groundwater quality in and adjacent to Holmes Harbor.

Sincerely,


Sue Joerger
Puget Soundkeeper

*Protecting and
Preserving
Puget Sound*

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