

Public comment on boat dock due 1.27.25 6pm

January 26, 2025

This is my personal Public Comment against the current private party “Boat Dock application” presented for Public Comment by City Planner Alex Kovach at a City of Soap Lake public meeting on 1.7. 2025, which is continued for public comment until January 27th, 2025 @ 6pm. File: SL-24-R-041

I am absolutely opposed to this permit being granted.

*** and further more I propose:

*****A moratorium for BOAT DOCK permitting should be put in place:**

First and foremost: Soap Lake, the lake, has been granted the status of “Outstanding Resource Water” by the State of Washington. (ORW, Tier III (B) in the State of Washington, granted December 2023, confirmed January 2024: This is the first lake in the state. WSR 24-01-088 link is attached

PERMANENT RULES DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

<https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/law/wsr/2024/01/24-01-088.htm>

The Department of Ecology (DOE) has **NOT** to my knowledge and research to date stepped up to their task of establishing baselines nor guidelines for this first designated ORW lake, in the state of Washington. The fact that it is an ancient mineral lake is unique in and of itself and pollution of it may have some unique variations. It has been defined by the simple measurement of CONDUCTIVITY.

*****Soap Lake is an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) in Washington State and thus has specific protections, which are the RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DOE to research.**

I see no data in DOE’s letter to the City Planner, or on line, that such annual study of the **conductivity data (which identifies pollution per the ORW for the lake)** has been provided.

***I therefor assume that **no studies by the DOE have been done** showing the conductivity measures that pollution has NOT increased since the recognition as Outstanding Resource Water in the last year.

1) at least until the DOE studies the pattern of the past several years of 1) **falling underground aquifer levels** as well as 2) **falling above ground lake elevations** and 3) **lake-bed waters receding and leaving uncovered thick mud on the**

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shorelines. That mud (and lake water washing over it) is extremely important to the re-mineralization process of this lake, which will put at risk anything being built on the shorelines.

2) until the DOE provides evidence of No decrease in conductivity (no pollution) of the lake water has occurred since January 2024 ORW approval , I would recommend **No permitting on or near the shores of the lake.**

3) Other important lake values for the DOE to track for pollution (conductivity) and deterioration of mineral amounts and variety are:

a) the **decreasing elevation of the “lake water level”**, (see USGS Chart)

b) as well as **the lake-water receding visually northward from the southern shoreline within the lakebed** (this could be several hundred feet to the north at times); **exposing previously submerged lake bottom sediments (“mud”) in the “shallows” at the City’s parks and beaches and the Resort.** In order to access the lake water during irrigation months, bathers may need to walk through almost knee high mud in some places for many yards to reach the water.

IMPORTANT NOTE: **This shallow water mud requires being continuously washed over with lake-water in the shallows areas to allow re-mineralization of the lake water to occur.**

The building of boat docks disturb the equilibrium of the lake and shoreline birds and invite the need for more rules by the city for motors on boats....and if the water receding continues will become useless eyesores and need to be removed.

Until this annual comparison research for the health of the lake related to pollution is done by the state agencies responsible for doing it, (DOE) I think ALL boat dock applications need to be denied or a moratorium needs to occur.

Judith Gorman