

## Comments by Lake Sammamish Shoreline Residents – Impacts of High Water Levels

June 2012

### Resident 1

...This is not just a theoretical concern. The first winter after my husband and I moved into our home, we woke up early one morning around 2 a.m. and had to go into the lake during significant wind/rainfall to pull parts of our dock out of the water that had detached as a result of being battered by the rising waters. As responsible residents, we were concerned that if left un-retrieved, the portions of the detached dock could cause significant harm to property (ours and others). Each winter, we see some type of damage occurring (minor and major) to the surrounding docks and environs as a result of the rising waters. With proper maintenance at and near the weir and transition zone on Lake Sammamish River much of these issues and damage could be mitigated.

### Resident 2

...My parents have lived on Lake Sammamish for about 35 years, so I have some history of observing water levels. Over the past few years the winter water levels have been extreme and it has taken longer in the summer to return to normal levels. This change seems to correspond to when the maintenance at and near the weir and transition zone on the Sammamish River at Marymoor Park was transferred to King County and feel they have been delinquent in their maintenance responsibilities.

### Resident 3

... I have lived on the lake for 17 years and in that time the lake level in Winter has gone up considerably. It has already led to the destruction of my dock due to high water during storms and is eroding my bank each year. My 9 year old daughter and I recently canoed north to the start of the slough and I couldn't believe how shallow and clogged it was. After looking at it she asked me how the lake water could leave the lake with all that stuff blocking it? She very astutely compared it to leaving a wash cloth in the bathtub after taking a bath and expecting the water to drain right out. It won't. And all the "gunk" would get stuck there and stop all the water from leaving. Even a 9 year old can grasp the concept after seeing it.

### Resident 4

...am particularly concerned about how the high water levels continue to allow hidden hazards to boat traffic (logs and rocks that would ordinarily be easily seen and avoided when water levels are at normal levels, which are now barely below the surface of the water at their artificially high levels). This presents an obvious and serious safety risk, and I have personally witnessed several occurrences of very near misses that could have had life-threatening results.

### Resident 5

...As a result of past maintenance neglect, docks on Lake Sammamish are being destroyed by constant high water levels which necessitates expensive repairs and or replacement. I recently paid over \$55,000 to replace my dock.

### Resident 6

...I now struggle to get onto my boat lift until well into June (or last year July) as the water levels sit higher for longer. We've had water under our "beach shack" now twice in the past few years, something the prior owners viewed as unprecedented. The answer is so obvious and logical – it seems a shame not to support these reasonable steps to protect our shoreline and property.

(Continued below)

**Resident 7**

... We have attached some photos of the destruction previous flooding has caused to our property. Notice that our dock is not only under water, but a large section became detached creating a safety hazard for future use. A similar problem occurred on our neighbor's dock. Lack of maintenance by the county has resulted in significant repair costs for many lakefront property owners.

**Resident 8**

...I fear that relaxing the effort now will bring the return of harmful water levels next winter, and make recovery even more difficult and expensive. ...Failure to do this work could result in substantial monetary damage to many of your constituents, environmental damage to parts of your city, and possibly ill-advised hasty regulations that may or may not become part of the solution.

**Resident 9**

...The point which lake level recession slows down considerably is when it reaches the wall of sediment, debris and rapid growing plants that prevent efficient flow through the Transition Zone. I strongly urge this condition be remedied before the end of this fall. Costly solutions are not needed, only proper maintenance.

**Resident 10**

...The county will be trying to tell you about a costly project they would like to undertake which may make the problem worse and will take years to complete. All they really need to do is follow the guidelines of the Corps of Engineers, including removal of debris and sediment at the upper end of the transition zone. They did clear a little brush last year on both sides of the transition zone as well as a very narrow channel through the middle. This minimal maintenance helped (as did last winter's mild weather), but the county is setting us up for massive damage within our city by not doing the job right.

**Resident 11**

...Last year or the year before we put our boat in the lake, as we have been doing for 35 years in June. The water was low enough to be out of the water on the boat lift. Then we had some rain and the lake rose to where the boat was floating off of the lift.

**Resident 12**

...I'm a resident of Bellevue and have lived on Lake Sammamish for 35 years. I personally have lost a dock due the high water & have experienced massive beach erosion. Both these items have cost me great sums of money to repair.