



2401 South 35th Street, Room 2
Tacoma, Washington 98409-7460
piercecountywa.gov/ppw

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Application Numbers: 778791, 778792, 778793, 778794, and 823304

Parcel Numbers: 0122133078, 0122231065, 0122231067, 0122231071

Proposal: Burley Lagoon Geoduck Farm (Taylor Shellfish Farms)
Shoreline Substantial Development Permit / Shoreline Conditional Use Permit
Case No. SD/CP15-14

Description of proposal: Convert existing shellfish beds from the cultivation of Manila clams and oysters to geoduck clams planted in rigid polyvinyl chloride (PVC) nursery tubes and/or HDPE flexible mesh nursery tubes throughout a 25.5-acre project area. Predator exclusion netting may also be utilized during some portion of the generalized 6-year grow-out cycle. Planting would be done in phases.

Location of proposal: Burley Lagoon (southern half within unincorporated Pierce County between Henderson Bay and Kitsap County) within the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor Peninsula Community Plan areas, within Sections 13 and 23, T22N, R1E, and County Council District #7.

Proponent: Taylor Shellfish Farms

Lead agency: Pierce County Planning and Public Works Department

Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS): The County will issue a DEIS for this proposal on October 4, 2021. This notice is being provided to you, in advance of the issuance date, for your planning purposes. Starting on that date, a copy of the DEIS, including technical appendices, can be found on the Pierce County Planning and Public Works Department webpage at: www.piercecountywa.gov/burleylagoon

Request for Written Comments: If you wish to review and provide written comments on the DEIS you may do so through November 17, 2021. This date is the end of a 45-day comment period (maximum indicated per Washington Administrative Code Section 197-11-455). Comments may be provided in one of the following ways to the assigned County Planner, Ty Booth:

- By email to: ty.booth@piercecountywa.gov
- In letter form to Pierce County Planning and Public Works Department, attention Ty Booth, 2401 S. 35th St., Suite 2, Tacoma, WA 98409-7490

In your comments, please reference the proposal name and/or application number(s). Also make sure to legibly include your name and address (email and/or mailing address). Should you have questions, Mr. Booth's phone number is 253-798-3727.

Draft EIS Issue Date: October 4, 2021 / **Draft EIS Comment Deadline:** November 17, 2021

Proposal History/Future: The Proponent submitted shoreline permit applications to Pierce County on May 28, 2014. These applications are subject to environmental review pursuant to the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Subsequently, the Proponent and County agreed that an EIS would be prepared. The purpose of an EIS is to provide the public and agency decision-makers with information on the probable significant adverse impacts associated with a proposal, reasonable alternatives, and possible mitigation measures. The EIS process started when the County issued a Determination of Significance (DS) on October 5, 2016. The deadline for providing comments on the DS was November 8, 2016. A public meeting regarding the DS/EIS was held at Peninsula High School on October 25, 2016. The DS appeal deadline was November 22, 2016. No appeal of was filed. Since that time, a DEIS has been under preparation.

Once the DEIS is issued, you will have the opportunity to comment on the accuracy and completeness of the environmental analysis, the methodology used in the analysis, and whether you feel there is a need for additional information and/or mitigation measures, so that improvements may be made before it is finalized. Comments received on the DEIS will be considered and responded to in a Final EIS (FEIS). It is unknown, at this time, when the FEIS will be issued. You will receive notification. Once issued, the FEIS may be appealed. Note, issuance of the DEIS/FEIS does not constitute approval of the proposal. Instead, the EIS will be considered in conjunction with other relevant information (policies, regulations, etc.) to approve, condition, or deny the subsequently required shoreline permits.

Once the FEIS is issued, a public meeting(s) before the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor Peninsula Land Use Advisory Commissions will be scheduled. These commissions will make a recommendation(s), to the Pierce County Hearing Examiner, on whether the shoreline permits should be approved, approved with conditions, or denied. Subsequently, a public hearing(s) before the Hearing Examiner will be held. The Hearing Examiner will make the final County decision as to whether the shoreline permits are approved, approved with conditions, or denied. The Hearing Examiner would also consider, at the same hearing(s), any appeal of the FEIS.

Detailed information regarding SEPA and the EIS review process may be obtained on the internet by utilizing the search term "Washington State Department of Ecology SEPA".