

June 21, 2021

Via email: jkarcher@co.whatcom.wa.us

Jim Karcher, County Engineer
Whatcom County Public Works
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

Subject: Temporary Closure at Gulf Road South of Henry Road

Dear Mr. Karcher,

Cherry Point Industries, LLC and Cherry Point Industrial Park Ltd, (together "CPIP") owns 335 acres of industrial zoned land within the Cherry Point Industrial District in Whatcom County, Washington State (the "Property"). The Property abuts ALCOA – Intalco Works facility, Pacific International Holdings ("PIH") property and is bounded by Henry Road, Gulf Road and the Straits of Georgia. There is a gated access point to the Property at the vacated dead end of Gulf Road.

CPIP would appreciate your help resolving an issue concerning our Property. The Gulf Road area has persistently suffered from undesirable, illegal activities including dumping, vandalism, drug and alcohol uses, damage from fires and shooting. CPIP writes in support of PIH's proposed ordinance to temporarily close Gulf Road just south of the intersection with Henry Road to public access. The upland and beach areas around this southern section of Gulf Road have been experiencing an increased incidence of illegal activities and trespassing by individuals who are accessing privately-owned properties via the County's Gulf Road right-of-way creating a public health and safety issue.


CPIP's caretaker has requested Whatcom County Sheriff's assistance in dealing with trespassers and illegal activities at the Gulf Road entrance to our Property, but the unlawful conduct continues. Neither the Sheriff's Office nor Whatcom County Fire District #7 has the resources to dedicate patrol officers to monitor the activities on an ongoing basis or respond to illegal beach fires left burning at the Gulf Road location. The unrestricted public access may create liability for both the County and private landowners. We do not want to see accidents and illegal activities continue at Gulf Road.

We believe it is in the County's best interest to stop destruction of private property and impacts to the environment caused by these unlawful activities. Installing a gate just south of Henry Road would eliminate vehicular access curbing most of the illegal activity at Gulf Road, while still allowing pedestrians to access the County owned right-of-way.

CPIP will work with PIH to address access our Property via Gulf Road as needed. As with other gates at Cherry Point CPIP authorized individuals will have key access so the proposed gate will not impact our ability to access the area as needed.

In sum, CPIP asks that Whatcom County Public Works and Councilmembers approve PIH's proposed ordinance to temporarily close Gulf Road just south of the intersection with Henry Road. Such temporary closure will help control unauthorized and unlawful uses occurring on private land, limiting liability for both CPIP and the County, while continuing to allow pedestrian access in this area.

Sincerely,



Steven Shropshire
Legal Counsel for CPIP