To: City of Sammamish Planning Commission

From: Jonathan D Frodge, Limnologist and Board Member- Save Lake Sammamish EXHIBIT NO. 255

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on proposed amendments to the City's Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance on behalf of Save Lake Sammamish. Save Lake Sammamish is concerned that the proposed revisions to the erosion protection overlays in the critical area ordinance will not adequately control phosphorus loading to Lake Sammamish and will result in degradation of the City's streams and increased eutrophication of Lake Sammamish. The proposed modifications have a high potential to negate the long, difficult and expensive stream and lake protection work carried out by the citizens and ratepayers of the City of Sammamish and King County.

While the Freshwater Program Manager at King County Water and Land Resources, I participated in the development of the water quality goals for Lake Sammamish and the 1996 *Lake Sammamish Water Quality Management Plan.* I was also a member of the regional 1995 task force that included citizens and staff from King County and the Lake Sammamish cities where we cooperatively developed this lake protection plan. The product of our efforts was to establish water quality goals and best management practices for phosphorus removal resulting in the development of the Sensitive Lake Protection Standards included in the 1998 *King County Surface Water Design Manual.* This standard has been successfully applied to Lake Sammamish and with the implementation of local ordinances is primarily responsible for the maintenance of water quality in Lake Sammamish.

This plan specifically identified the individual project by project evaluation approach previously used did not control phosphorus loading to Lake Sammamish, and the only cost effective way to protect the lake was by a watershed wide erosion control approach, wetland protection and development that maintained buffers and adequate forest cover. The plan stated that without significant local and regional erosion and development controls total phosphorus loads would increase and the lake would not meet the mutually agreed upon water quality goals. These conclusions remain true for the watershed. The conclusion that if these protections are weakened we will see a degradation of water quality also remains true.

The State of Washington has designated Lake Sammamish a lake of statewide significance. To protect the high value of this lake the King County designated Lake Sammamish as requiring meeting the sensitive lake standard. The sensitive lake designation requires the implementation of pollution control strategies including phosphorus control strategies. The continued lake water quality is dependent on maintaining these phosphorus control strategies throughout the watershed. The Sensitive Lake Standard is only effective when strictly enforced in conjunction with adequate and enforced local regulations. The proposed relaxed criteria would lead to increased phosphorus input and eutrophication.

An analysis of water quality data pertaining to the water quality goals set in the 1996 and 1998 plans has been presented to the planning commission. Even with the clarification of the calculation error in the phosphorus data, what the long term data shows is that the current standards may be adequate to maintain the volume weighted total phosphorus. To assume that we would maintain the phosphorus concentrations in the lake and thereby attain the chlorophyll and clarity goals if we loosened the standards is based on nothing but unsubstantiated supposition. My professional opinion is the proposed weakening of the overlays will substantially increase the probability that Lake Sammamish water quality will be degraded. Additionally, with the increased phosphorus loads there will be a higher probability of cyanobacteria blooms, and we would expect an increase in the frequency of blooms that produce toxins.

To adequately protect the streams in the City of Sammamish and Lake Sammamish, there needed to be appropriate stream, wetland and lake buffer requirements to be effective long term. Coordination between regional and local regulations, such as the current erosion overlays, is how the Sensitive Lake Standard is effective. If the City is interested in protecting their resources, these criteria should be

maintained or strengthened. The proposed weakened standards will make the protection of these resources less likely.

No one supposes that the degradation of the fish runs or streams in the City of Sammamish, or the eutrophication of Lake Sammamish is the intent of the proposed revision to the City's ordinance, but that would be a likely unintended consequence of that action. If the City of Sammamish wants to maintain the ecological and water quality of their streams and Lake Sammamish and the increased property values these high quality water support, maintaining or strengthen the buffer requirements and erosion control overlays is essential. If these regulations are weakened, as the current proposal would do, increased sediment will enter your streams, the runs native salmonids will be more at risk of extinction, and the probability of degrading Lake Sammamish and negatively impacting property values will be increased.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Frodge Ph.D. Save Lake Sammamish

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EXHIBIT NO.

Hello, my name is Jessie Majerczyk. We live at 2424 210th Ave SE, in Sammamish. Pine Stream runs across our property and as I have said before, that prior to 1995, this stream was defined as a seasonal stream, which the setbacks were between 35-50 feet. In 2005, the stream was reclassified and the setbacks were changed to 150 feet. The current classification of this stream is not correct. Water only flows in this stream during periods of heavy rain, this is roughly about 3 months during our heavy rain season.

This classification is wrong because of the fact that there is no water present the majority of the time, there is no wildlife or fish in the stream and it is dry. According to the best available science experts, if water does not exist in a stream other than in periods of rain, as the type of stream that Pine Stream is, it should be classified as a seasonal stream. Therefore, the setback and classification needs to be changed back to what it originally was in 1995.

Due to the current wrong classification and setback restrictions of Pine Stream, much of my land, as a resident of Sammamish, is useless and cannot be touched. Yet, I continue to pay taxes on property the City refuses to let me use.

I thank you for your time and attention. I hope you take my concerns and the concerns of many other Sammamish

residents, who have the same or similar problems, into account.

Jessie i Józef Majewscy