

## Mineral Resource Land Hearing Held

by Beverly Browne, Contributing Editor

County Commissioners heard testimony about Fred Hill Material's (FHM) Mineral Resource Land (MRL) designation on Wednesday, June 9, at Chimacum High School. Commissioner Glen Huntingford, Chair, was joined by Commissioners Pat Rogers and Dan Titterness and County Planner Greg Ballard. Members of the Hood Canal Coalition, representatives of FHM, and members of the Teamsters Union, were present. As expected, the auditorium was packed and security was heavy. Pickets for opposing groups bearing signs crowded the parking lot.

Huntingford, who expects a decision in approximately two weeks, reviewed three alternatives before the Board. The alternatives are: the Approved Action Alternative (modified 690-acre MRL plus 15 conditions), the No Action Alternative (no designated MRL and reliance on the current Unified Development Code), and the Proposed Action Alternative (a 6,240-acre MRL originally proposed by FHM). Greg Ballard reviewed the Community Development Department report on the MRL proposal. Ballard emphasized that the Pit-to-Pier Project was not the issue being evaluated.

Testimony began with James C. Tracy, Land Use Attorney for FHM. Tracy reiterated that the MRL proposal was not linked to the Pit-to-Pier Project and supported the modified action alternative. The Pit-to-Pier project, certain to engender biblical controversy, is in the application stage. Tracy stated that FHM will continue to grow and accused the Hood Canal Coalition (HCC) of using unethical tactics and making unsupported claims.

John Fabian, representing HCC, said the MRL was all about the Pit-to-Pier project. He stated that Jefferson County only rules on the MRL, not on the Pit-to-Pier project and received wild applause. He accused FHM of manufacturing bogus claims of benefits to the County, and the Commissioners of manufacturing bogus law. HCC supports the No Action Alternative and believes existing environmental protections will be sufficient.

After testimony from a Teamsters lawyer in support of the MRL designation, Teamsters dramatically exited the auditorium. Norm Dicks sent warnings about considering MRL an isolated action when it may lead to unalterable changes in Hood Canal. Other testimony focused on the fragile environment of the Canal, concern about

water supply, the fishing industry, risks to the Hood Canal Bridge, social responsibility of business, and inequality of benefits compared with risk. FHM reaps benefits; the people of the Peninsula assume risk.

## Your Drainage District at Work

by Gene Amundson, Drainage District Commissioner

The Port Ludlow Drainage District (PLDD) has awarded Seton Construction a contract for the replacement of the storm water drainage line running from the junction of Montgomery Lane and Libby Court down to the bluff where it discharges onto the beach. The existing line consists of a 32-inch pipe that has rusted out, and the water has been undercutting the pipe and discharging about six feet below the pipe onto the beach, causing erosion to the bluff. A sewer line runs north and south under this line and is in jeopardy due to the failure of the piping.

The planned replacement is to install a new pipe to the bluff and add additional piping down the bluff to the beach where the water will be dispersed through a diffuser. Work is anticipated to start in the **July-August** time frame and will take about two weeks to a month to complete at a cost of approximately \$120,000.

Also on tap is Phase II, repairing the deep drainage ditch created by heavy storm water between Oak Bay Road and Montgomery Lane at a cost of approximately \$68,000. The current ditch is up to five feet or deeper in some areas creating a hazard to a person walking in the Greenbelt. The Drainage District will be installing catch basins and piping plus regrading, straightening and stabilizing the ditch.

We encourage everyone to keep up-to-date on the activities of the Drainage District by attending the meetings held on the **second and fourth Thursdays** of every month, 10:00 a.m., at the Beach Club.



### Reminder to Dog Owners

So we all can enjoy our walks please carry a plastic bag and clean up after your dog, large or small!