

Interim City Manager
City of Mercer Island
9611 SE 36th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

November 11, 2016

RE: SEPA Appeals Regarding MICA

Dear Ms. Bissonnette:

On behalf of the more than 30 appellants who filed responses and have standing in the SEPA application filed by MICA, we urge that once MICA files its responses to the City's questions, etc. and the City renders a decision that the appellants are given sufficient time to file their appeals.

As you know, the response to file an appeal to the initial MICA SEPA submission was a de facto five-day period in the middle of August when the Council, along with many other Island residents were on vacation thus limiting to an unknown extent the ability of residents to fully grasp all the issues, determine whether to file a response, engage in the research necessary to file a strong and thorough response, and then file the response. Moreover, after responses had been prepared and submitted, we learned that the SEPA checklist had been amended with no subsequent notice to the public.

In some respects, to have over 30 respondents filing on such a short timeline during the summer vacation period fully demonstrates the depth of the concerns that Mercer Island residents have pertaining to this issue, and documents the degree to which this issue is a serious concern of Mercer Islanders.

Quite frankly, what we are afraid of is that the City will make a SEPA determination on this issue in mid- to late December when most people, including the Council, are either away on vacation or have their attention turned to holiday-related celebrations. Indeed, now that MICA has taken over two months to file their responses, we would not be surprised if the MICA responses are submitted to the City later this month or early December, which some citizens might well interpret as a move by MICA to intentionally coincide with a season when citizens are focused more on winter vacations and family holiday celebrations than on civic business, and thus result in less thorough review by citizens and fewer follow up citizen appeals.

Thus, we respectfully submit that the City's SEPA determination be postponed until January, 2017 (or later, depending upon when MICA submits its revised checklist). Furthermore, we request that all parties of record, individually, receive the Notice of Decision on MICA's SEPA so Mercer Island residents with standing can have a reasonable time for a full and robust review period during which they may submit their appeals.

We would appreciate your written response to this request.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizens for Mercer Island Parks

P.O. Box 1337, Mercer Island, WA 98040, E-Mail: ProtectMIParks@gmail.com

cc: Mayor Bassett, Deputy Mayor Bertlin, City Council members, City Attorney K. Sand