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9 23 2020

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
City Commissioners,
City Hall
1220 SW Fourth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners,

We recently communicated our concerns regarding the proposed Alamo Manhattan project and I wanted to follow up regarding two points that came out of the recent City Council hearing. My understanding is comments are still welcome to inform the Council of our concerns.

Apparently the potential for docks and public boat ramps were surfaced in the recent hearing. I want Council to know that we are adamantly opposed to such a proposal. First, I doubt NOAA Fisheries and other agencies would allow for such a facility. Second, such a proposition would be counter to all the work the South Portland Neighborhood Association, we and other advocates, and city staff have put into working with Alamo Manhattan to improve fish and wildlife habitat, address endangered fish issues, and to provide an environmentally friendly design. I believe a proposed dock and boat launch would also be counter to the vision Alamo Manhattan has for the restored bank as well. Please do not include such a facility in your recommendations for this project.

We also want to acknowledge Alamo Manhattan's commitment to include ecoroofs on all the towers. Tom Liptan, UGI board member and formerly the city's Bureau of Environmental Services volunteered to work with them at one of the Design Commission hearings. Tom created the city's ecoroof program and is an internationally recognized expert on ecoroof design. They took him up on the offer and he has provided them with information regarding cost-effective and successful designs based on his philosophy that highly functional ecoroofs do not have to cost a lot of money. We are pleased that they have made that commitment.

Respectfully,

Mike Houck, The Urban Naturalist

