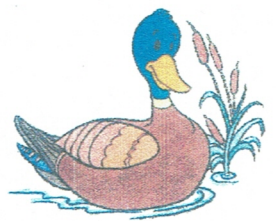


# LAIDLAW ISLAND HUNTING CLUB

ESTABLISHED IN 1923

P.O. BOX 522  
ABERDEEN, WA. 98520



To: Tom Cappa – Westport Public Works Director  
Planning - State Parks

May 12, 2025

From: Laidlaw Island Hunting Club

Subject: Westport Golf Course Off-site Mitigation

Gentlemen,

I received a copy of the draft of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Westport Golf Course Project. I was surprised to see Laidlaw properties outlined in the draft as part of the Golf Course Project's Off-site mitigation.

The Laidlaw Island Hunting Club, a privately owned Corporation near Westport, was contacted in the summer of 2024 concerning the possibility of using some Laidlaw land for wetland mitigation property for the Westport Golf Course Project.

Subsequently, Mark Merkelbach as representing the Golf Course Project, met with myself and another Laidlaw owner to explain the Westport Golf Course Project's need for some property that could qualify for development into wetlands for mitigation of lands associated with the construction and development of the Westport Golf Course Project. Without any commitment at that time, we agreed that Laidlaw would entertain discussions with the representatives of the Westport Golf Course Project if any qualifying Laidlaw property could be used for wetland mitigation purposes, and would benefit Laidlaw should the Westport Golf Course Project move forward.

As a result of this meeting, I gave Mark Merkelbach two separate tours of Laidlaw and adjacent areas later that summer. Mark seemed most interested in an area of approximately 7 – 10 acres of Laidlaw land on our Grays Harbor County Parcel # 161129340000. Mark felt that this property would qualify for wetland mitigation and could be developed into a wetlands pond and waterfowl hunting area for Laidlaw similar to those existing Laidlaw hunting sites in the adjacent areas.

To be clear, there have been no verbal or written agreement between the Laidlaw Board of Directors or any Laidlaw representative and any representative of the Westport Golf Course Project, and no further contact between the two parties since the summer of 2024 to discuss wetland mitigation projects associated with any Laidlaw properties.

Sincerely,

Bill McClelland  
Laidlaw Sec / Treasurer