

Exhibit E

**Public Correspondence Received as
of April 8, 2026**



COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Brian E. Pixley, Sheriff

03/16/2026

I am writing you to share the struggle we have experienced with the seasonal traffic and crowds on Sauvie Island. Every year starting in May when the weather becomes warmer and days longer, the Island experiences high volumes of visitors. This is exacerbated with high temperatures, holidays and the summer school break. At peak summer visitation, Sauvie Island can see well over 10,000 visitors in a day. These visitors come to enjoy the many activities available on the Island including visiting the of public beaches on the Northern (Columbia County side) portion of the Island. This is also statistically, the busiest months for emergency calls and situations on the Island.


The community experiences a sharp rise in parking and traffic during these busy seasonal periods, with the worst conditions being close to the beaches. Parking near beaches often severely limits traffic to one lane, and on weekends and holidays, traffic can back up to two miles from the beach.

When responding to emergencies, this becomes a major worry and can create officer safety risks. While responding to calls for service on the island, it is not uncommon to have to wait an extended period of time for cover units due to the high volume of traffic and congestion on the island. Moving big groups of people off the island via a single access and egress to the beaches (the Wapato Bridge and Reeder Road) is a key issue during major emergency events.

While I don't generally advocate to limit the number of visitors to the island, when it compromises officer safety and the general safety of the public, something needs to be done. Although the island's community depends on seasonal tourists, future planning and initiatives are required to help ensure safe travel and a satisfying island experience.

As the Sheriff, I support efforts to help keep the residence and visitors to the island safe while allowing everyone to experience what Sauvie Island has to offer. I believe this traffic management program is a good start in helping do just that.

Thank You


Brian Pixley, Sheriff
Brian.pixley@columbiacountyor.gov

March 10, 2026

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Thank you in advance for reading this letter in support of the work ODFW is doing in managing traffic on Sauvie Island at our beaches in the peak season.

Last year ODFW met with residents to discuss a new plan for parking at the beaches on Sauvie Island. My husband and I were consulted on the issues we have had with overcrowding on the beaches as well as possible issues that could result from parking/traffic management during peak beach usage. As there are pros and cons to the implementation of this work, the pros have greatly outweighed the cons!

We do feel bad for the little store out here by the beach as their beach going traffic was reduced with the pilot this past summer, but the positive impact for our livability and safety as the last house before the public beaches start was dramatically improved.

While this management project is not about us, the amount of trespassing on our property and illegal parking around us was dramatically reduced. The amount of litter and loitering on the beach drastically decreased. These are all things we were hoping for; not only for us, but for the wildlife.

The biggest positive of this program was the increase in the safety of all of us, including the wildlife.

Having a daily use pass in addition to the required parking pass improved the "quality" of the visitors out here - the people who visited the beaches were people who plan ahead and take care of the beaches. They are also the people who safely use the beaches, not lighting fires or drinking and driving. Having people monitoring the beach road makes people think twice about drinking and driving out here - before this monitoring was in place, it didn't matter there was a booze ban on the beach, people still drink (and drink too much) and drive irresponsibly on our windy roads.

Also, the daily pass limited the number of cars so people parked safely - we didn't have the issues of first responders not being able to respond to beach emergencies and our fire trucks could safely navigate the parking area to respond to needs beyond the beach parking.

Yes, it was frustrating on a few days when traffic backed up, but it was worth it overall as it greatly improved the enjoyability of the beach experience for visitors AND it was definitely more enjoyable for those of us who live out here.

Now that we have tried out the monitoring and management AND worked out a lot of the kinks; I am hoping the ODFW will have the support they need from the state and county to put this program into place permanently.

As residents on Sauvie Island and people who live on Reeder Road, we wholeheartedly support the ODFW and their vision of helping keep our beaches safe for all of us, including our wildlife residents - it is their home first and foremost!

Please reach out with any questions, concerns or clarifications. keelynudo@gmail.com or 503-805-0500.

Sincerely,

Keely S. Nudo

Keely S. Nudo
33106 NW Reeder Road
Portland, OR 97231



Date: Tuesday, June 24, 2025

To: Columbia County Commissioners

I am writing you to share the struggle we have experienced with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in seasonal traffic and crowds on Sauvie Island. Every year starting in May when the weather becomes warmer and days longer, the Island experiences high volumes of visitors. This is exacerbated with high temperatures, holidays and the summer school break. At peak summer visitation, Sauvie Island can see 10,000 plus visitors in a day. These visitors come to enjoy the many activities available on the Island including visiting the of public beaches on the Northern (Columbia County side) portion of the Island. This is also statistically, the busiest months for emergency alarms on the Island. In fact, almost half of the annual emergency alarms occur during the months of June, July, August, and September.

The community experiences a sharp rise in parking and traffic during these busy seasonal periods, with the worst conditions being close to the beaches. Parking near beaches frequently limits traffic to one lane, and on weekends and holidays, traffic can back up to two miles from the beach. When responding to emergencies, this becomes a major worry. After attending to medical situations, we have had emergency equipment "stuck" in traffic at the beaches. Moving big groups of people off the island via a single access and egress to the beaches (the Wapato Bridge and Reeder Road) is a key issue during major emergency events.

The Fire District frequently experiences an increase grass fires at and on the way out to the beaches, often started by careless recreational fires/ and BBQs.

The problem has gotten so bad that the Fire District asked for and received funds three years in a row when the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office provided a grant opportunity for financing to hire seasonal firefighter/EMTs. In order to assist with emergency response and fire patrol during the summer, the Fire District is able to recruit two full-time firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

We don't want the number of visitors to the island to be restricted. Although the island's community depends on seasonal tourists, future planning and initiatives are required to help ensure safe travel and a satisfying island experience.

As the Fire Chief, I support efforts to help keep the residence and visitors to the island safe while allowing everyone to experience what Sauvie Island has to offer. I believe this traffic management program is a good start in helping do just that.

Respectfully,

Chris Lake, Fire Chief
Sauvie Island Fire District