

**January 4, 2009**

**To:** Honorable members of The San Juan County Council

**From:** Pete Moe, S.W.A.C. Member, Executive Director of The Funhouse,  
Orcas Island Resident

**RE:** S.W.A.C recommendation for location of new San Juan Island  
Transfer Station

I agree with the majority decision of the S.W.A.C., that the **Beaverton Road** site be selected as the location of the new reuse/recycle/transfer station located on San Juan Island.

In a perfect world, a world with overflowing community chests, San Juan County would purchase the existing Sutton Road facility from the Town of Friday Harbor (for \$1.00, and no more), undertake the massive task of cleaning it up, and converting it into a model reuse/recycle/transfer facility.

Unfortunately this is entirely impractical. The clean-up and reconstruction of the existing facility at Sutton Road would be wildly expensive and very disruptive.

Beaverton Road is the best choice. The County owns the property; it is geographically and topographically ideal; it lends itself to development of a model facility for the county, the state, and beyond. I also believe it will be the most cost effective solution.

Plans should include an 'Exchange' facility for useable goods, an extensive recycling station (metals, glass, paper & construction materials), a composting station, a toxic station and (finally) a transfer station.

It is essential that we take this opportunity to develop a model facility. To fail at this would be to do the county a significant disservice.

My thanks to the Council for appointing me to the S.W.A.C., and

Best Regards,

Pete Moe

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**Notes:**

Virtually Unanimous:

Please be advised that the S.W.A.C. was essentially unanimous in its choice of Beaverton Road as the best site. The only dissenting votes come from S.W.A.C. members who own property adjacent to Beaverton.

Private Trash Collection:

I would expect significant input from private trash collectors on this discussion in the months to come. They will lobby for curb-side pick up. This appears to be a reasonable solution in the short term. However it goes against the wishes of most San Juan Island residents, the principles of S.W.A.C., and the goals of the Dept. of Ecology. Curb-side pick up means even more waste being trucked off island, a patently flawed policy.