

FERRY NOISE STATUS UPDATE

January 30, 2011

When the Herron Island ferry returned from the shipyard, the engines seemed louder, although we were not able to take readings to compare before and after noise levels. In response to mainland complaints, HMC asked the shipyard and muffler manufacturer to modify the mufflers, and we were successful in achieving some noise reduction.

The island manager sought a proposal from an acoustics engineering firm in Seattle to investigate the engine noise and propose measures to reduce it. We were quoted a price of \$3000 to measure engine noise and \$4600 to develop a mitigation plan. Physical modifications, if any, would be additional and would take the ferry out of service during installation.

HMC, as a non-profit homeowners association, does not have these funds, especially when tangible noise reduction cannot be assured. In addition, our mechanics tell us they have done what they can, that additional modification would probably increase our costs of operation through increased fuel consumption along with accelerated wear and tear on the engines. Actual ability to mitigate the sound is uncertain, and there is no legal obligation that HMC do so. We feel we have acted in good faith in response to the complaints we have received. Our next step will be to seek a federal grant for Diesel Emission Reduction, but this is 12-18 months away, and not guaranteed. We remain open to suggestion, including mainland resident cost sharing in the above proposal from the acoustics firm.