

'A Big Day in Seabeck' as Marina Construction Begins

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SEABECK — Nine months ago, it appeared [plans for a 200-slip marina](#) in Seabeck were headed for the shredder.

Banks weren't lending money, and four private investors financing the Olympic View Marina didn't know if they had enough capital to build the facility after the permitting process took two years longer than expected.

With [permitting](#) and [zoning complications](#) behind them and permits set to expire in another year, the three remaining partners — one withdrew because of the financial burden — decided they couldn't walk away from the project.

Banks still aren't lending money, but the three men will dip into their personal savings and businesses to get their vision off the ground.

Tuesday was the first day of work as equipment and barges were staged along the waterfront. Crews are taking advantage of a two-week window during which pile driving is allowed by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. The restrictions are in place to limit disruption of underwater habitat.

"It's definitely a financial burden, but there's also the reality of having nothing built at all," said Wil Clark, one of the investors. "For all the money and time we have put in place, it would all be for naught if we don't do something."

Clark is the co-owner of Pacific Pile and Marine, a Seattle-based company specializing in marine and heavy civil construction services such as pile driving, dredging, bridge construction and foundation production. Co-owner Eric Reichelt is also a partner in the marina deal.

The third partner, Boyer Halvorsen, is the owner of Boyer Towing Incorporated, which operates tugs and barges along the Pacific Coast and owns major barge and freight terminals in Seattle and Alaska.

Those companies will perform the initial work, including driving about 27 pilings in the next two weeks that will become the foundation for the main walkway of the 200-slip marina. The partners will absorb as much cost as possible and likely deplete personal savings accounts to finance the marina. If needed they'll look into additional financing options, Clark said.

"I think fundamentally we all believe this is a great project," he said. "It's something we all believe in."

Calling it "a big day in Seabeck," Billy Mills, owner of the Seabeck General Store, spent Tuesday marveling at a sight he thought would never happen. Others joined him when they heard the news.

"Almost everybody in Seabeck is out here watching it," he said.

Billy and wife Barbie, who owns neighboring Barbie's Cafe, have anxiously waited for the removal of the existing dilapidated marina. The couple live above the store, so a new marina will improve their view. More importantly, it will boost business.

"It's something we've needed out here," Mills said. "I just can't get over it, how great it is."

Off-the-water work on the marina will continue in small phases over the next four to five months before the next two-week window opens this summer to install the walkway over the water. A completion date has not been publicly set.



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