

August 11, 2022

Kittitas County Community Development Services
ATTN: Kelly Bacon
411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

**RE: Vantage Recreation Area - North Jetty Cove Shoreline Substantial Development Permit and Public Facility Permit
SD-22-00001 and PF-22-00001 – Comment Response.**

Dear Kelly,

Thank you for providing the public and agency comments for the Vantage Recreation Area – North Jetty Cove project (Project). Grant Public Utility District No. 2 (Grant PUD) is providing the following comment responses as requested. We trust these responses will be sufficient for Kittitas County to issue approval of the applications.

- 1. Yakama Nation** – Grant PUD will avoid all known and eligible archaeological sites within the Project vicinity. Grant PUD maintains a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) that includes an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) that will be followed should the need arise. A copy of the HPMP is included for your reference and the IDP is found in Section 6.6.3.2.
- 2. Kittitas County Public Health** – The Project area will be served by the existing restroom facility located at the Vantage Boat Launch. No additional restroom facilities are planned at this time to serve this pre-existing recreation area.
- 3. Washington State Department of Ecology** – This Project does not include grade and fill activities, however, Grant PUD has applied for all necessary U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) permits, reference ACOE permit NWS-2022-182. It is anticipated Grant PUD will receive the “Letter of Permission” and the Nationwide Permit 1 (NWP1) by mid to late August, 2022. Once the NWP1 is obtained, an application for a PATON will be submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard. There are no anticipated discharges into Waters of the State associated with this work. Grant PUD’s response to Question 8a of the JARPA notes that Best Management Practices (BMP) will be implemented as the project progresses; a standard practice for Grant PUD projects.
- 4. Kittitas County Public Works** – Access to the Project area will be limited to Boat Launch Road and the existing pedestrian access originating near the restroom adjacent to the Vantage Boat Launch. Grant PUD will work with Kittitas County to obtain the necessary floodplain development permit as directed. We have reviewed the ITE trip generation manual (6th addition) as it relates to the Project and believe the site is best classified as a “Beach Park” in the ITE manual. Beach Parks generate approximately 1.18 peak hour trips per acre (Saturday peak). The

Project area is approximately 2.04 acres in size and would therefore generate approximately 2.41 peak trips which is below the threshold to require a transportation impact analysis. As previously stated, the Project does not include grade and fill activities, and no grade and fill applications are anticipated.

5. **Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation** – Grant PUD is sensitive to the impacts of removing recreational opportunities from the Priest Rapids Project area and is uniquely aware of the impacts those actions can have to undeveloped sites elsewhere. The Project seeks to improve visitor safety by removing derelict equipment left behind by a former permit holder, while preserving the recreational opportunities presented at the site.
6. **Kittitas County Fire District #4** – Grant PUD proposes to revise its response to Question 6b in our original JARPA such that it refers to the cove as a “swimming area”. Grant PUD will not designate the cove area as a swimming area at this time. The proposed buoy line is solely intended to prohibit motorized vessels from accessing the cove area. We support the use of the Vantage Boat Launch by emergency responders at any time, but particularly when exigent circumstances warrant such use. The launch facility is safe and well equipped to support vessel launching and staging, and the surrounding gradients into the water are shallow. Grant PUD respectfully disagrees with the Fire District’s assertion that the application should be denied on its merits. The Project as designed complies with all relevant goals and policies of the Kittitas County Shoreline Master Program and warrants approval by Kittitas County. Furthermore, Grant PUD has invested nearly \$63 million toward the improvement of recreation opportunities throughout the entire Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, which demonstrates our commitment to providing ample and safe recreational opportunities to all users, regardless of place of residence.
7. **Kittitas County Sheriff’s Office** – The Project area is currently served by seven (7) passenger vehicle parking spaces and approximately fifty (50) vehicle/trailer combination spaces at the Vantage Boat Launch. No additional parking is planned at this time given that this is an existing recreation space that will continue to be served by the Vantage launch. However, it should also be noted that Grant PUD is currently discussing with Kittitas County Public Works additional overflow parking for the launch area. It is our sincere hope that this effort continues forward and additional parking can be realized.
8. **Public Comments** – Grant PUD appreciates the comments offered by the members of the public. The Project area will remain open to the public and visitors are welcomed and encouraged to enjoy it. The scope of work contemplated in the permit application focuses only on removing the derelict equipment and remedying safety hazards at the site left by a previous permittee. Any equipment at the site determined to be in a hazardous condition or state warrants removal. While the upland fountain feature is not being removed, an inoperable pump and broken water intake that previously actuated the fountain up until several years ago will be removed as part of this Project. Similarly, the anchoring structures that supported the now-removed docks in the cove area must be removed for public safety purposes.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you need any additional information or clarification, please contact me directly at (509) 398-3817 or dhooper@gcpud.org

Sincerely,



Damien Hooper
Lands and Permitting Supervisor

Enclosures: Historic Properties Management Plan
WDFW - HPA