

13 June, 2013

To Mr. Andrew Kottkamp
Hearings Examiner Kittitas County
Dear Mr. Kottkamp,

Please accept my comments on the CU-12-00002 Canyon River Ranch CUP application. While I strongly believe this project is exactly the type of attraction that can provide an excellent economic driver for Kittitas County, using the natural beauty the Yakima River provides, there are several flaws in the current application. Fortunately, these problems can easily be remedied by purchasing and retiring upstream senior water rights.

While both issues involve water use, one falls under the Department of Ecology and other under the Department of Health. I incorporate here the DOE response of April 29, 2013 by Sage Park, Operations and Permitting Unit Supervisor, Water Resources Program / CRO. This references water right in the Yakima Basin and the 2011 USGS Study. There is currently no senior water right associated with this facility.

Regarding the Department of Health, I have included a link for the DOH Sentry Program Water System ID 72990. This has current information on the hook-ups allowed for this system. It shows they have recently been approved to increase the number of hook-ups from 14 to 18. However, the application clearly shows a total of 22 cabins plus the lodge and miscellaneous outbuildings. The math does not add up.

Based on the existing structures, I believe the current use must exceed the amount of water allowed under the permit-exempt well exception, especially with the vineyards that have been added and the grand lodge, both in terms of instantaneous and annual usage. It is important to remember that even if this permit-exempt well is within the 5,000 gal/day, their beneficial use includes the amount historically used - not an automatic 5,000 gal. Any expansion of an existing well is considered a new use by Ecology. However, I believe this is not presently a compliant well and the addition of more cabins will only exacerbate the problem. This well is a mere 32 feet deep (see the DOH Sentry program).

However, with their main-stem location, mitigation water should be easily obtained and a minimal investment relative to the impressive project the applicants are undertaking. I should think that the upscale market they are targeting would appreciate patronizing a resort in the Yakima River Canyon that is known to be sustainable and friendly to the very environment they are traveling to enjoy.

Link to Sentry Internet on DOH Drinking Water website:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/portal/odw/si/SingleSystemViews/ReportSingleSys.aspx>

Sincerely, Melissa Bates

120 Elk Haven Rd.
Cle Elum, WA 98922

Lindsey Ozbolt

From: Lindsey Ozbolt
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 3:55 PM
To: 'Melissa Bates'; Rose Shriner; Steph Mifflin
Subject: RE: Canyon River Ranch Comments

Melissa,

Your comment has been received and will be included in the record at the hearing this evening.

Regards,

Lindsey Ozbolt
Staff Planner

Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 North Ruby St., Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Phone: 509-962-7637
Email: lindsey.ozbolt@co.kittitas.wa.us

From: Melissa Bates [<mailto:peohpoint@mac.com>]
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 2:55 PM
To: Rose Shriner; Lindsey Ozbolt; Steph Mifflin
Subject: Fwd: Canyon River Ranch Comments

Thought I should copy you as well! Thanks, Melissa Bates

Alpine Aries
Scottish Blackface & Border Leicester Sheep
Cle Elum, Washington

Begin forwarded message:

From: Melissa Bates <peohpoint@mac.com>
Date: June 13, 2013, 2:31:36 PM PDT
To: andy@wenatcheelaw.com
Cc: "G. Thomas (ECY) Tebb" <GTEB461@ecy.wa.gov>
Subject: Canyon River Ranch Comments

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Sincerely, Melissa Bates

120 Elk Haven Rd.
Cle Elum, WA 98922

Lindsey Ozbolt

From: Andrew Kottkamp <andy@wenatcheelaw.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 2:42 PM
To: Lindsey Ozbolt
Subject: FW: Canyon River Ranch Comments
Attachments: Canyon River Ranch comments.docx; ATT00076.htm

Lindsey

I received this email a few minutes ago. Can you forward this to the applicant?

Andy

Andrew Kottkamp

Kottkamp & Yedinak P.L.L.C.
435 Orondo Ave.
P.O. Box 1667
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 667-8667
www.wenatcheelaw.com

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From: Melissa Bates [mailto:peohpoint@mac.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 2:32 PM
To: andy@wenatcheelaw.com
Cc: G. Thomas (ECY) Tebb
Subject: Canyon River Ranch Comments

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No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6406 - Release Date: 06/12/13