

Kaycee Hathaway

From: Rose Shriner
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 12:29 PM
To: Kaycee Hathaway
Cc: Jeff Watson; Lindsey Ozbolt; Doc Hansen
Subject: FW: Written Comments on Conditional use application for CU-14-00002

From: Samantha Howard [mailto:dr.samhoward@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 3:44 PM
To: CDS User; Samantha Howard; Ben Taylor
Subject: Written Comments on Conditional use application for CU-14-00002

Samantha Howard, DVM and Benjamin Taylor

5612 Naneum Rd.

Ellensburg, WA 98926

To: Kittitas County Community Development Services

From: Samantha Howard, DVM & Benjamin Taylor

Subject: CU-14-00002, Graham, NMF Enterprises, 5810 Naneum Rd.

I am writing to voice my concern over the potential growing and processing of marijuana at 5810 Naneum Rd. (NMF Enterprises) the property adjacent to ours. We bought our house in July of 2013 not knowing that particular piece of property was going to be used to grow marijuana. We bought the property to raise a family in a safe rural environment, much like the one I was raised in as a child. My concerns are as follows:

- Safety and Security of my family, property and animals. The pot field and processing barn are a public safety concern. We are located on 3 acres. There is no way to secure our property from those choosing to drive or walk through it in order to get to the property containing marijuana. It provides numerous hiding places (trees, pond and deep irrigation ditches) that a person can move undetected to the marijuana farm. There is no fence or lights or security camera that is going to keep the drug cartel from driving onto his property or utilizing aspects of our property to steal a marijuana crop using violence and force. Law enforcement is going to be increasingly burdened as the number of "farms" increase. We live about 15 minutes from town and this may provide a slower response time if there were an emergency. With the increase in lights, noise and people walking around the prospective pot farm, my dogs have begun barking incessantly at things they perceive to be a danger.

- Real Estate Value- While there is no way to tell how property values will be affected, I can tell you the industrial size fence that was put in place is an eyesore. Part of the reason we bought our house was the view of the mountains and hay fields behind our house. We no longer have these views. Real estate value is also determined by how safe a person would feel moving to a new location. In the aforementioned paragraph I have listed elements that would deter someone from wanting to buy our house. Also, if our property value were to decline as a result of the farm next door, we would become "upside down" in our loan; a position that every homeowner.
- There is also potential for increased traffic on our road. Mike Graham comments that he expects about 10 vehicles per day to come and go from the site. It has been well-advertised in the Daily Record where these prospective grow operations are to take place. If approved, I would anticipate far more vehicles coming and going to either look at the site or to "case" it for future criminal activity. These added vehicles and people are likely to trespass on neighboring properties to get a better look at the grow operation. We are also concerned about the air quality and smell at certain times during the marijuana production.
- Esthetic Value- Not only is the large industrial 8 foot high fence an eyesore, but the owners have done nothing to hide the fence and keep the area looking "rural" or congruent with its surroundings. Graham comments in his application that the operation would "enhance the natural beauty of this country setting" We very strongly disagree.

Please feel free to come to my house for an idea of what a security fence for a marijuana growing and processing property looks like; especially keeping in mind all of the above bulleted-points. We have discussed putting up numerous trees to shield our view of the fence. Our adjacent neighbor (to the west) expressed his discontent with the idea, as it would block his only view from his back porch.

- KRD water- We irrigate our 3 acres of pasture with KRD water. The property owner is also using KRD water to irrigate his facility. It is my understanding that a domestic well is an unacceptable form of watering his plants and that KRD is not supporting irrigation water for these facilities. Our water has not reached our property several times because he has either turned off the water (he has leaking pipes that are allowing portions of his field to be flooded) or left his water line uncapped into his field. Also, what kind of effects do the chemicals used to grow marijuana have on our water quality? Our livestock depends on our ability to maintain a pasture for them to eat. If we cannot get water to our pastures, we will not be able to properly maintain the animals. We also live next to an established Timothy hay grower that exports his hay overseas. I would hate to see his hard-earned crop rejected because of crop contamination.

Please consider denying this conditional use permit for the above listed reasons.

Respectfully,

Samantha Howard, DVM

Benjamin Taylor

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