

Kaycee Hathaway

From: Clear, Gwen (ECY) <GCLE461@ECY.WA.GOV> on behalf of ECY RE CRO ERTS COORDINATOR <CROERTS@ECY.WA.GOV>
Sent: Wednesday, December 24, 2014 9:51 AM
To: Kaycee Hathaway
Subject: Revised comments for CU-14-00005
Attachments: 3789 revised Gonzalez.pdf

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please see the attached revised comment letter for the marijuana farming operation for Mary Gonzalez. (I've added SEA program comments.) A hard copy letter will be mailed to you today.
Thank you,

Gwen Clear
Regional SEPA Coordinator
WA State Dept of Ecology
Central Regional Office - Yakima
(509) 575-2012



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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December 24, 2014

Kaycee Hathaway
Kittitas County Community Development
411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re: CU-14-00005

Dear Ms. Hathaway:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the optional determination of nonsignificance process for the farming operations related to KC 17.15.060.1 A – Marijuana Processing and Production on a 15.03 acres parcel, proposed by Mary Gonzalez. We have reviewed the documents and have the following revised comments.

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Ecology recommends that all phases of the commercial cannabis growing development be described in this environmental checklist form. A site plan was available, but very little details of the plan were included in the environmental checklist answers. No build-out information, such as total square feet of impervious surfaces or square feet per phase, was provided to this reviewing agency.

SHORELANDS/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE

The wetlands on site should be delineated and rated to assure that appropriately sized buffers are in place throughout all phases of the project to protect the wetland functional values. In later phases of the project, the buffer from the wetlands is proposed to be cut in half to 60 feet. At this size buffer (combined with a slope) only 50 to 70 percent of nutrients being applied on the surface could expect to be treated by an intact vegetated grass buffer. The impacts of the use of fertilizers on the adjacent wetland should be evaluated. Measures that will be employed by the applicant to protect the water quality and other functional values of the wetlands on site should be described by the applicant. Periodic assessment of the impact of the project on adjacent wetlands is recommended.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Shorelands/Environmental Assistance comments, please contact **Catherine Reed** at (509) 575-2616.



WATER RESOURCES

In Washington State, prospective water users must obtain authorization from the Department of Ecology before diverting surface water or withdrawing ground water, with one exception. Ground water withdrawals of up to 5,000 gallons per day used for single or group domestic supply, industrial purposes, stock watering or for the irrigation of up to one-half acre of lawn and garden are exempt from the permitting process. Water use under the RCW 90.44.050 exemption establishes a water right that is subject to the same privileges, restrictions, laws and regulations as a water right permit or certificate obtained directly from Ecology.

All water wells constructed shall be in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 173-160 WAC by a driller licensed in the State of Washington. All wells must be located a minimum of 100 feet from any known, suspected, or potential source of contamination and shall not be located within 1,000 feet of the property boundary of solid waste landfills. A well report must be submitted to the Department of Ecology within thirty days after the completion of a well.

Kittitas County is under a compliance order from the Growth Management Hearings Board which requires that the County employ measures to protect the quality and quantity of surface water and ground water resources. As part of the settlement proposal the County agreed to require mitigation for new uses of ground water in Kittitas County, including commercial cannabis grows. For more information contact the Kittitas County Public Health Department at (509)962-7515 or visit <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/default.aspx>

If water is from permitted source such as city water, water association, or an irrigation or reclamation district, then the water purveyor is responsible for ensuring that the proposed use(s) are within the limitations of its water rights. If the proposal's actions are different than the existing water right (source, purpose, the place of use, or period of use), then it is subject to approval from the Department of Ecology pursuant to Sections 90.03.380 RCW and 90.44.100 RCW.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Water Resources comments, please contact **Jacquelyn Metcalfe** at (509) 457-7148.

Sincerely,



Gwen Clear
Environmental Review Coordinator
Central Regional Office
(509) 575-2012