



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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December 22, 2014

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DEC 23 2014

KITTITAS COUNTY
CDS

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 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.

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



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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