

Kaycee Hathaway

From: wagnerdan@charter.net
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2014 8:24 AM
To: Kaycee Hathaway
Subject: RE: Please object to CUP for alarmingly huge pot grow by Dec. 26

Dear Ms. Hathaway,

I am writing to you in order to voice my opposition to the ongoing conversation in regards to the McDonald Farm request to grow marijuana. First, the idea that marijuana is a viable crop akin to say hay, cattle or corn is a complete travesty. My wife and I were in Denver, Co. this past Summer and we could see the capitalistic arm of how these so called pot shops have basically deteriorated a good portion of the commercial area on Broadway Street with it's proliferation of the clients looking homeless, stuporous and bedraggled. I don't think that the forefathers of this area had ever envisioned that happening in Ellensburg. These so called "legal" operations are not only a black mark on our community but threaten the valley in other ways not only economically but also the area youth as it is well known that marijuana is a gateway drug. The so called INVESTORS are probably few in number and prefer not to be identified as to who they are and they more than likely are not even from this area. They will gladly take their profits from so many who don't realize that they are helping this cancer metastasize. Thank you for your time and I hope my letter is one of many in opposition to the McDonald Farm request.

Respectfully,
Daniel Wagner

On Wed, Dec 17, 2014 at 5:05 PM, Save Our Ag & Rural Spaces wrote:

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Save Our Ag & Rural Spaces or Concerned Residents of Kittitas County. Don't forget to add saveouragandruralspaces@gmail.com to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!
You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

If the Board of County Commissioners had enacted a moratorium in June or July, as a number of other counties in the state did, we would not have any marijuana producers in the rural areas. But, alas, they did not. Now vigilance is needed to minimize the damage.

In the background is the green 8' fence and hoop houses for T. J. McDonald's marijuana operation, Old McDonald's Farm, at 1006 Emerson Road. The swing set belongs to the next door neighbors. Since T.J. McDonald's application is on less than 20 acres, his is one of the few that has to undergo the Conditional Use Permit Process under the old rules

Deadline for objecting to the McDonald CUP is Dec. 26, 2014

About two miles from the Thrall Road exit off I-82, in the middle of prime Timothy farmland, is the proposed location of T.J. McDonald's recreational marijuana production site. He is asking that an unprecedented seven acres be fenced for production. Currently, the WALCB is only allowing one 21,000 sq. ft. operation per business, which is

less than 1/2 acre. Even if the LCB allows the three applications they initially said they would, this would still be far less than seven acres.

So why does he want so much more growing space than the WA Liquor Control Board is allowing 502 businesses to produce on? Is he planning on leasing to other producers/processors that were not able to get permits in before the new rules took place? Is he planning to use it for his medical marijuana business as well? We don't know if he is or if that is even allowable. The state has recently quadrupled growing canopy in the state to 8,000,000 sq. ft. total. So you can see that seven acres, 304,920 sq. ft., would be a huge chunk. It is important to object to this application.

Seven acres could hold fourteen Tier 3 producers which could contain enough product to amount to hundreds of millions of dollars, with obvious security issues attached. There can be 1,500 pounds per harvest in a Tier 3. Current prices at Ellensburg's retail pot shop, Cannabis Central, are \$25/gram, which works out to be over \$700/oz. Even at pre-legalization prices of \$230/oz. for high quality bud, the value would be over \$5M per crop. Figure one to two crops per year for an outdoor Tier 3 grow that would be permitted to store 1.25 years worth of product. It is a valuable commodity that some undesirables, particularly those with the network with which to distribute it, might try to acquire through robbery or extortion.

To object to this application visit the link in the light blue box below and then click CU-14-00005 McDonald. All information is online. Don't be intimidated. Many of the links are just one page that is a photo or form that was signed. What you want to pay the most attention to are the questions on the SEPA checklist. Look them over for flaws, false statements, inconsistency with laws and common sense. It is all about the environmental impacts of this new use in the community. Your opinions matter. If/when we need to visit the BOCC again it would be helpful for them to see that people cared enough about the issue to send comments.

I will be submitting comments even though it isn't near my house. I hope you will too. If you do, it will be good practice in case one of these pops up near your house and read about how that might still happen in the last section of this email.

No one should have to live near one of these incompatible and inappropriately zoned businesses. The struggle isn't over yet.

**Submit objections to kaycee.hathaway@co.kittitas.wa.us
<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/land-use/current-planning.aspx?title=Conditional%20Use%20Permits>**

Outdoor cannabis grow operation sought by Daily Record Staff 12/15/14

This article explains why this project is being considered despite the recent changes in zoning rules and advises that comments should pertain to the possible environmental impacts from the proposed business or general neighborhood impacts.

http://www.dailyrecordnews.com/members/outdoor-cannabis-grow-operation-sought/article_59d720f0-8485-11e4-b5d1-b718a28fc89e.html

How many marijuana producers/processors were able to file paperwork before the Dec. 2 deadline?

What have you found out through your public records requests? Unfortunately, the county was still accepting building permit applications for 502 grows until Dec. 2nd when they signed the new zoning rule they voted on in November. Why it took so long to sign it is unclear to us, but in the meantime an unknown number of building permit applications were submitted that producers and processors will use in an attempt to vest.

We are interested in knowing the results of your public records requests regarding which producers/processors actually filed building permits. More bad news is that a producer/processor does not have to operate at the address listed on their application. They could have filed for building permits for their fences at any agricultural property of 20 acres or more and avoid the Conditional Use Process.

<https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/request/Kittitas-County-Public-Records-Request.pdf>

Thanks to you and many others in this county we won a major battle in getting zoning changed. At the very least it prevented additional companies from moving into our farm land. Unfortunately, there are some producers/processors operating in the rural areas and that situation is unfortunate and problematic. We welcome your help in monitoring and informing the public on how this experiment works out.

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Save Our Ag & Rural Spaces | 707 N. Pearl Suite A | Ellensburg | WA | 98926