



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 W Yakima Ave, Ste 200 • Yakima, WA 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

April 30, 2008

Kari Braniff
Kittitas County Community Development
411 N Ruby St, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA. 98926

Dear Ms. Braniff:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the short plat of approximately 6.32 acres into 2 lots, proposed by Anne Watanabe [SP 07-167]. We have reviewed the application and have the following comments.

Water Quality

Dividing or platting of a piece of property is often the first step in a proposed development. If a subsequent individual or common plan of development exceeds 1 acre of disturbed ground in size an NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit may be required. Ground disturbance includes all utility placements and building or upgrading existing roads. The process requires going through SEPA, developing a stormwater pollution prevention plan, submitting an application and a 30 day public notice process. This may take 45-60 days. A permit and a stormwater plan are required prior to beginning ground-breaking activities. Please contact Bryan Neet with the Department of Ecology, (509) 575-2808, with questions about this permit

Water Resources

Any ground water withdrawals in excess of 5,000 gallons per day or for the irrigation of more than ½ acre of lawn or noncommercial garden will require a permit from the Department of Ecology.

Chapter 173-150 WAC provides for the protection of existing rights against impairment, i.e. interruption or interference in the availability of water. If water supply in your area becomes limited your use could be curtailed by those with senior water rights.

The Attorney General's Opinion, (AGO 1997 No. 6) regarding the status of exempt ground water withdrawals, states that a group of wells drilled by the same person or group of persons, at or about the same time, in the same area, for the same purpose or project should be considered a single withdrawal and would not be exempt from the



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permitting requirement contained in RCW 90.44.050, if the total amount withdrawn for domestic use exceeds 5,000 gallons per day or if a total of more than .5 acre of lawn and garden are irrigated.

The Attorney General's opinion suggests that caution should be used in finding developments to be exempt from needing a water right permit if the possibility exists that the development of the project will result in the ultimate withdrawal of water in excess of 5,000 gallons per day or the irrigation of more that .5 acre of lawn and garden.

The Department of Ecology encourages the development of public water supply systems, whether publicly or privately owned, to provide water to regional areas and developments.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources comments, please contact Breean Zimmerman at (509) 454-7647.

Sincerely,



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