

## Kaycee Hathaway

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**From:** agilityaussie@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2015 3:09 PM  
**To:** Kaycee Hathaway  
**Subject:** Comments Re: SEPA, Grow Bros, 2990 Rader Rd, Ellensburg WA

To: Kaycee Hathaway

I am a resident of Rader Rd, and am writing to express my concerns, and submit my comments on the SEPA Determination for Grow Bros, 2990 Rader Rd., Ellensburg, WA.

I have reviewed the SEPA application, and question several of the responses submitted by Grow Bros. I was surprised to hear of this project at all, since the Grow Bros had previously been using an address on Bowers Rd.

In general, it seems to me that the actual address of a project should be what is used on publicly available lists.

I have previously submitted a letter stating that I believe processing belongs in an industrial zone, not in ag. for a variety of reasons, especially when processing a high value crop such as marijuana. One of those reasons is security, and access to public services. Grow Bros says that there will be no need for additional public services. I question that claim, based on reports of the experiences of other marijuana businesses in the region (robberies, break-ins, etc.) not to mention Life Gardens had 6 sheriff visits in 2 months. Locating this project in an industrial zoned area, with good access to public services would be more appropriate.

Grow Bros application says that there will be 4-5 workers at peak times. What about in the future phases of the project? It seems more than a little ambitious to me that a project of this size will only require 4-5 employees. In addition, there are 19 parking places on the plans-what are those for?)

Grow Bros plans to supply Porta-Potties for their employees, so there will not be sewage discharge. However, lab processing, as well as flushing during the growing process will be required. How will that discharge be dealt with? I also question how workplace health and safety concerns will be addressed -even though they will be using Porta-Potties, what about flushing stations and emergency showers for the employees?

Grow Bros says they will be using hydrocarbon extracting. There is an inherent fire danger in the process, separate from the stated plan to store materials in a separate building. Additional concern: what will be done with the extracted waste products? And, the operating plans for the processing plant are not provided in this application.

The Grow Bros response to the question about "Animals" is unclear to me. There are many "examples" pre-filled in on the form, however their response only lists: songbirds, and cattle. Driving down Rader Rd, adjacent to the property, you can see: hawks, herons, bald eagles, golden eagles, Canada Geese, mallards, Kingfishers, deer, cougar, fish, crawdads, snakes, coyote, cats, skunks, rock chucks, and more. Does this mean that Grow Brothers is not aware of these animals? And then, not concerned about any adverse effects their industrial project could have on them?

Grow Bros states that the new use will be agricultural. Marijuana production and processing is not classified as an agricultural activity. Washington state classifies it as industrial.

Other responses by Grow Bros, that I question:

Regarding "Water," Schnebly Creek is in very close proximity to the proposed site.

Regarding "Noise," ventilators involved in growing tunnels are very loud, as shown in videos of other marijuana producers.

Regarding "Odor," based on comments of other marijuana producers, they love the smell of marijuana producing, so there must be an odor. In addition, residents down-wind from marijuana producers stated that you could definitely smell it.

Regarding "Plants," *none known* is Grow Bros reply to whether there are noxious weeds or invasive species near the site. Not accurate, those plants are near the site- maybe they just didn't check, so replied "none known?" In addition, though "pasture" is what is listed as on their site, in close proximity, other crops are grown: hay, apple orchards, flower production, Maple, Birch, Poplar, Cedar Trees and others.

In conclusion, I am a concerned resident of Kittitas County, and Rader Rd. In reviewing the SEPA application, I have found many of the Grow Bros responses to be of serious concern, and I have commented on them in this email. I believe that allowing this project to proceed is not in the best interest of the community.

I request that the County take my comments into consideration, to deny approval of the Grow Bros project on Rader Rd, and not allow the project to go forward.

Thank you very much.

Debbi Borin  
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