

From: sara@krdistrict.org
To: [Chace Pedersen](#)
Cc: ["kevin eslinger"](#)
Subject: RE: CU-24-00003 Schnebly Coulee Solar Farm - Re-Notice of Application
Date: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 12:49:31 PM

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Hi Chace,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Schnebly Coulee Solar Farm's updated application. The Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) has concerns regarding the applicant's response to SEPA questions, specifically comment (c. Water Runoff (including stormwater), #1 (bottom of page 7)) *"Runoff onsite primarily occurs from the precipitation and snow melt. Natural drainage features found on-site typically run from the northeast to the southwest and connect with the unnamed Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) irrigation canal located west and adjacent to the project. These drainage features with transport runoff into the KRD irrigation canal."*

The canal mentioned is the North Branch Canal infrastructure which is moving irrigation water throughout the lower valley making agriculture possible. The solar project adjacent to the canal could affect delivery, quality and quantity of irrigation water making it a concern to KRD.

The natural runoff flows from Schnebly Coulee currently present no issues within the existing natural drainage systems. Water runoff is directed under the North Branch canal, not into the canal itself. Any modification to the natural drainage system could alter the ability of the existing North Branch canal infrastructure, an undershot beneath the canal, to handle an increase in runoff. It is unacceptable to direct runoff directly into the canal for several reasons.

- **Water Quality.** Potential contamination from solar panels, solvents and/or construction of the solar farm could impact the quality of the runoff water in the natural drainages. Poor water quality being directed into the canal infrastructure can cause downstream impacts to the Kittitas Valley agriculture.
- **Overflow and flooding.** Excess water in the canal can cause overtopping of water, damage to lands adjacent to the canal and damage to infrastructure. Excess water can cause damage to the existing infrastructure in place to manage the water runoff.

The Schnebly Coulee Solar Energy Project will need to work with the KRD to understand the impacts of the solar panels on the irrigation system and have plans to mitigate any future

potential issues caused by the project. The KRD needs to reiterate that it will not allow any water runoff from the project site to enter the canal system. Additionally, the North Branch is owned in fee by US Bureau of Reclamation and as a result a modification to the undershot necessary to handle increased flows will require a license from USBR.

Thank you,

Sara Vickers
Lands Clerk/RRA Specialist
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From: Chace Pedersen <chace.pedersen@co.kittitas.wa.us>

Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 1:34 PM

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