



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1250 W Alder St • Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • (509) 575-2490

April 15, 2016

Mr. William D. Schmidt  
310 Mission View Drive  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

I am writing in response to your February 12, 2016 letter to Sage Park regarding beneficial use and the history of water use on your properties. I've recently taken over as the Water Resources Section Manager for the Central Region. Having had a chance to review the file history, I'll concur with Sage that it seems a face to face meeting may be in order to more fully address your questions and concerns. To that end, I believe that her analysis and explanation is well grounded.

Beneficial use is not as simple as a "yes" or "no" answer. Two key aspects of that term are the purpose for which water is being used and the extent (or quantity) of water that has been applied to that purpose. In this case, you would need to demonstrate evidence that: 1) a beneficial use for domestic water supply purposes had been established, and 2) it had been used in quantities great enough to satisfy the water needs of the properties after plat approval. Though you've documented several uses occurring on your properties, it doesn't seem that those uses alone could substantiate a decision by the county that there is adequate water present to support development on your pending plat approvals. As such, it seems that your request to Kittitas County will be contingent upon demonstration of adequate water supplies. You can acquire mitigation to offset the anticipated new uses through the County directly, or through one of numerous water banks operating in Kittitas County.

I understand that staff turnover here has complicated your efforts to get clarification and I am hoping that this matter can be resolved soon. If you would like to pursue a meeting to discuss this further, please contact me to make arrangements.

Regards,

Trevor Hutton  
Section Manager  
Water Resources Program

cc: The Honorable Matt Manweller, Washington State House of Representatives  
The Honorable Paul Jewell, Kittitas County Commissioner  
Holly Myers, Environmental Health Supervisor, Kittitas County Public Health Department  
Sage Park, Regional Director, Department of Ecology, Central Regional Office (Email PDF)

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