

Lindsey Ozbolt

From: Doug D'Hondt
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 1:30 PM
To: Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt
Subject: FW: Interpretive Center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Douglas P. D'Hondt, P.E., L.E.G.
County Engineer
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From: Tebb, G. Thomas (ECY) [mailto:GTEB461@ecy.wa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2014 8:26 AM
To: Paul Jewell; McHugh, Julia (ECY)
Cc: Doug D'Hondt; Holly Myers; Barwin, Robert F. (ECY)
Subject: RE: Interpretive Center

Good morning Commissioner Jewell,

After a brief discussion this morning with Bob Barwin in Water Resources, we are respecting the County's authority to make the final call on whether mitigation is required in this case.

Best regards,

Tom Tebb

G. Thomas Tebb, LHg, LEG | Director of Central Regional Office
WA Department of Ecology | 15 W. Yakima Ave., Ste 200 | Yakima WA 98902
Main 509.575.2490 | Direct Dial 509.574.3989 | Fax 509.575.2809

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Paul Jewell [mailto:paul.jewell@co.kittitas.wa.us]
Sent: Monday, December 29, 2014 4:54 PM
To: McHugh, Julia (ECY); Tebb, G. Thomas (ECY)
Cc: Doug D'Hondt; Holly Myers
Subject: RE: Interpretive Center

Julia,

I have reviewed the emails you sent below in response to our County Engineer's inquiry. I am writing to make you aware that we respectfully disagree with your assessment and intend to review the building permit for the Yakima Canyon Interpretive Center project without requiring mitigation for water use.

It is our understanding that the site has a pre-existing well and septic system that was utilized by a rental home for many years. Therefore, a pre-existing, permit-exempt use of groundwater on the site for indoor domestic purposes has already been established. The rental home is no longer occupied (very recently) and will be removed from the property. As part of the project, the septic drain field will be repurposed for the new structure. A new well will be drilled for the new building for domestic water use purposes. However, it will not withdraw an amount greater than 5,000 gallons per day. The existing well will not be used as part of this project.

The site of the project is in lower Kittitas County near the mouth of the Yakima Canyon at the corner of Thrall Road and Canyon Road. It is outside of the area of the County currently under the "Upper Kittitas Rule" WAC 173-539A. While the County does require mitigation as part of our development regulations for new uses in this area, we do not classify this as a new use.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I will be happy to discuss this matter with you at any time.

Sincerely,

Paul Jewell
Kittitas County Commissioner, District 1

From: Doug D'Hondt
Sent: Wednesday, December 03, 2014 11:46 AM
To: Paul Jewell
Cc: Kirk Holmes
Subject: FW: Interpretive Center

This is the message I was referencing earlier today. WDOE personnel is of the opinion we are required to mitigate water usage at the interpretive center site.

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From: McHugh, Julia (ECY) [<mailto:JMCH461@ECY.WA.GOV>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:13 PM

To: Doug D'Hondt
Subject: RE: Interpretive Center

Doug,
Water permit application from 1989 attached.

I've checked w/ our Trust Water pro and you will need to get mitigation water from Co Health or the Water Banks in the county to come up with a Water Budget Neutral (WBN) determination before being able to use the well on site. While you will arrive at your own estimate of water use at the facility, it's estimated there will be less than 5,000 gpd use at the facility, and if so, it will be an 'exempt' use once you attain the WBN status.

Here's how to find the Water Banks if needed: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/market/market.html> where you'll see:

Yakima River Basin Water Exchanges

There are water exchanges serving the Upper Kittitas, Lower Kittitas, and Central and Lower Yakima basins, to help secure water for your needs. Mitigation is only required by rule for the Upper Kittitas. However, since the early 1990's permits for new uses of groundwater have required that the impacts are mitigated.

Mitigation plans that effectively offset the impact to the Yakima River of consumptive groundwater uses (those that diminish the amount of water from the source) help ensure that new groundwater uses will not be interrupted during times of water shortage.

- **Updated** [Yakima River Basin Water Exchanges](#) - Upper Kittitas, Lower Kittitas, Central Yakima and Lower Yakima Basins
- **Updated** [Tracking Mitigation Bank Performance](#) - Water Bank transactions for Water Budget Neutral and permit decisions

Call if any further questions. Good luck.

Julia McHugh
509-575-2382 | jmch461@ecy.wa.gov
Statewide Water Conservancy Board Coordinator
WA Dept. of Ecology | Water Resources Program
15 W. Yakima Ave Ste 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3452

From: Doug D'Hondt [<mailto:doug.dhondt@co.kittitas.wa.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:04 PM
To: McHugh, Julia (ECY)
Subject: Interpretive Center

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