

8/30/2020

To:

Kittitas County Community Development Services

Attention: Kelly Bacon

411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 2

Ellensburg, WA 98926

RE: Brown and Jackson/ 4 G Farms Sewage Lagoon project

To Whom it May Concern at CDS:

We have seen the Notice of Application, SEPA checklist and amendment to said SEPA checklist. We would like to comment **AGAINST** Kittitas County approving this project. This SEPA checklist that was submitted to CDS is filled out so vaguely and incorrectly that CDS should **NOT** approve the project.

Brown and Jackson/ 4 G Farms should be required to do some research on the property they just purchased in order to answer the SEPA checklist questions honestly and correctly. So many answers are "none known"; "not at this time"; "not expected"; "currently no plans". If it is approved and then these items on the SEPA checklist become known; it's now time and oh... we didn't expect that; but look what transpired; and now let's make a plan. What happens then? The surrounding neighborhood and families have to deal with the outcomes that CDS just pushed through?? Showing that they don't really care about the residents living in the surrounding properties that Brown and Jackson/ 4 G Farms claim aren't there? Brown and Jackson/ 4 G Farms state that "most of the surrounding area is either vacant or used for agricultural purposes" this is a **LIE**. Please refer to my attached map created off the Kittitas County TaxSifter web page (see Attachment #1) showing how many homes, state DSHS boys' home and construction school that are in the immediate area, that Brown and Jackson/ 4 G Farms claim aren't there.

This project first came to our attention last Fall and I spoke with Ms. Rikki Schmidt on the telephone. She stated they were paying too much money to the County to dump their waste at the Kittitas County Solid Waste Ryegrass land fill and they were looking for a new place to build their own sewage lagoons to dump their waste into. They tried to purchase the old sileage pit property, but that did not work out. She told me they were negotiating on the Clerf property adjacent to our property. She told me they would just be placing a pond on about six acres of the almost 200 acres above our adjacent property and that the ponds would be chemically treated so as not to emit any odors. After reading the published SEPA checklist and its attachments and SEPA Amendment; that clearly is not the case.

As you are aware; Brown and Jackson/ 4 G Farms would like to start with building two sewage lagoons on 25 acres. Brown and Jackson currently dumps 1,343,608.94 gallons a year at Kittitas County Solid Waste. The two ponds that they would like to start with will only hold 1,130,000 gallons. (see Attachment #2) Therefore, we are certainly thinking that additional ponds **will be** added at a later date... not "may occur at a later date" as their amended SEPA states.

They state construction will be started “immediately upon approval”. The test sites labeled on the proposed plan appear to have already been taking place as well as the “existing bridge” (over and through Parke Creek) that was built in a day on May 13th without permitting. How convenient that they could label it as an “existing creek crossing” one month before their application was submitted.

They state there are no known animals other than hawks and deer. We hear and see elk and coyotes on the property they want to dig up for these sewage lagoons. We also see cougars, porcupine, badgers, eagles, several types of owls, heron, ducks, skunks and more. I have also been told by the Conservation District that there are fish in Parke Creek.

In regard to the Environmental Health aspect of the SEPA checklist they state “See Spill Response Plan for more details” This response plan was not attached to the link in the public notice. I have an auto immune system disorder and almost all the surrounding neighbors in the area are elderly. If these sewage lagoons are built, are we all to just have to start staying inside and drinking bottled water because of the exposures to these “unknown” airborne and ground water environmental health hazards that were never brought to our attention? Our adjacent property has flooded in the past and also water seepage occurs from Jackson Brown/ 4 G Farms property every Spring from the snow melt run off and also when the irrigation from KRD starts. Our well is only 100 ft + deep. Any human waste / sewage seepage could contaminate our well water, the KRD water and our garden beds that we grow food in to consume. Even if the lagoons are lined how can Brown and Jackson/ 4 G Farms 100% prove a rock chuck, gopher or vole will not penetrate it? They penetrate our lined garden beds why would they not in a lagoon lining?

Our family and pets/animals as well as our surrounding neighbors spend the majority of our time outside in this beautiful area. We got married in our backyard. Our friends and neighbors say our place looks like a Park. We have a beautiful yard and garden and creek that seasonally runs through the property that our neighbors’ comment on all the time. We have friends and family that come visit out here to “just get away from it all”. They certainly aren’t going to want to come to Ellensburg and visit if it starts having “odors” as the SEPA checklist states over and over.

We would highly encourage Kittitas County Community Development Services to **NOT** approve this project. It is going to change the quality of life for all the surrounding communities of families, friends and pets/animals in our neighborhood. By approving this project, the county **WILL NOT** prove to be held to the minimum requirements of promotion of the public health, safety, morals and general welfare of our neighborhood as required in 17.04.020 Interpretation.

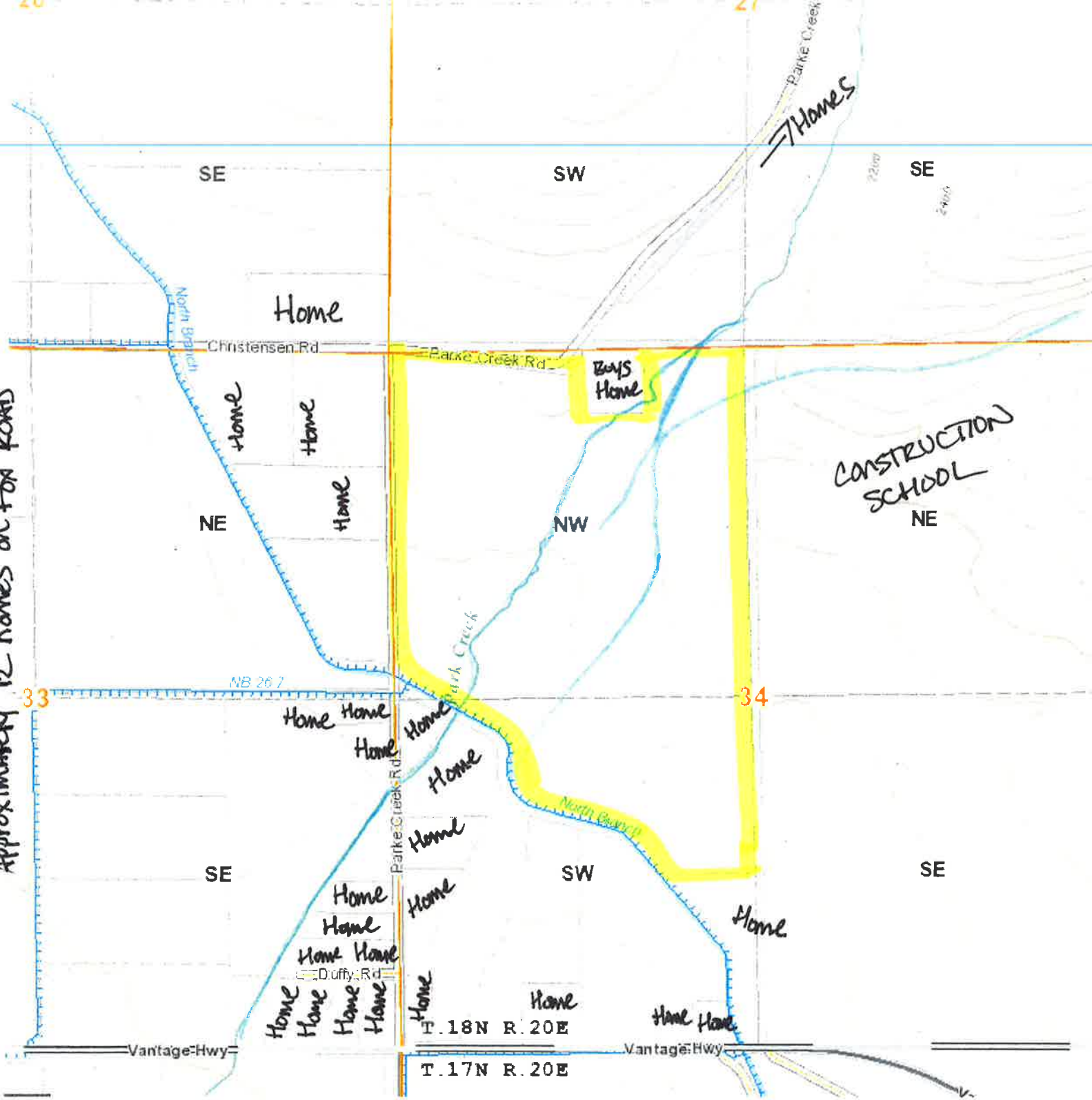
We appreciate your time in reading our comments and hope you will consider our families and our neighborhoods health, safety and welfare for our future in our homes and livelihood.



Sincerely,

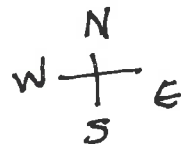


Shawn and Chery Byers
9810 Parke Creek Rd
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509 899 5707


Approximately 12 homes on FOR ROAD



 KRD CANAL
 PARK CREEK



Attachment # 1

 * 25 acres of sewage lagoons proposed to be built in this 197.92 acres



Kittitas County Solid Waste

Commodity by Site

Void = False AND DateOut Between "2019-01-01" to "2019-12-31" AND BillAcct = "000281"

		CNT	VOL/QTY	NET TONS	TIP	TAX	TOTAL
COMMODITY: 5 Septage							
EL	Ellensburg T.S.	20	58,539.67	242.94	\$9,309.03	\$0.00	\$9,309.03
TOTAL:		20	58,539.67	242.94	\$9,309.03	\$0.00	\$9,309.03
COMMODITY: 6 Septage - Ryegrass							
RY	Ryegrass Landfill	351	1,280,250.00	0.00	\$207,832.50	\$0.00	\$207,832.50
TOTAL:		351	1,280,250.00	0.00	\$207,832.50	\$0.00	\$207,832.50
COMMODITY: 916 Leachate To Ryegrass From TS							
RY	Ryegrass Landfill	1	3,000.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL:		1	3,000.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
COMMODITY: 921 Leachate Special to Ryegrass							
EL	Ellensburg T.S.	1	1,819.27	7.55	\$327.47	\$0.00	\$327.47
TOTAL:		1	1,819.27	7.55	\$327.47	\$0.00	\$327.47
GRAND TOTAL:		373	1,343,608.94	250.49	\$217,469.00	\$0.00	\$217,469.00

total gallons

Attachment #2