

LETTER 22 (LOG # 227)

Ron and Crystal Holstrom

Kelly Heidecker

From: rcridge [rcridge@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 2:42 PM
To: kheidecker@analyticalcorp.com
Subject: Cowlitz Casino Resort Project
Importance: High

Kelly Heidecker-

Please include our comments concerning the Cowlitz Casino Resort Project and forward them to Mr. Stanley Speaks - BIA. We had the opportunity to review the Draft EIS for the project and found some serious faults in the Ridgefield Interchange site as described. As a Public Safety professional in Clark county for the past 27 years and a local resident of the Ridgefield community for the past 13 years I would like you to consider the following:

The FAA completed a EIS for the same Ridgefield site in the 1980's for the proposed Pioneer Airport Project. It was found unsuitable for the project (much like the Casino in size) due the wetlands and environmental impact, not to mention the Wildlife Refuge and the impact on the migratory birds. Today the wetlands remain and in the EIS Figure 3.5-5 this is still the case, with a significant amount of the development in the wetlands. I could not find reference to two of the largest Clark County PUD well sites locate near this proposed site. One located on NW 277th Circle next to the site and the other off NE 264th also bordering the proposed site. The well sites provide a significant percentage of water to the City of Vancouver and La Center. The aquifer would be significantly impacted with any contamination to McCormick Creek or development in the wetland. We Strongly recommend the Pioneer Airport EIS be compared and referenced.

227-1

The noise and traffic issues currently described in the EIS should be described as incapable with existing infrastructures. The next exit south of the proposed site has seen struggling with the ingress and egress of the Clark County Amphitheater again much like the Casino in size. The same configuration and age of highway is present at the Ridgefield site. The existing I-5 interchange can not support the added traffic. Not to mention the already approved new High School that is being built at NE 65th and NE 279th next to the proposed site lending even more social and traffic problems.

227-2

Kelly - why all the out dated aerial photographs not accurate depicting the current developed areas? The communities that have been developed next to site are not being viewed and falsely lead one to believe there is nothing there.

227-3

The description of generally flat is inaccurate for the Ridgefield site. A proposed construction of the size would require leveling and fill dirt much like the existing construction project on the west side of I-5 across from the project. Massive amounts of fill are being added. Again this would significantly impact the wetlands and water supply.

227-4

The quotation that this area is being governed by the Ridgefield Urban Growth Plan is false, to my knowledge Clark County Commissioners have not approved the plan that was proposed by the city of Ridgefield.

227-5

We could point numerous other inaccuracies in the EIS but we just this week received the draft and the deadline is within a couple of hours.

227-6

Thank you for this opportunity to address these issues with you.

Ron and Crystal Holstrom

cc: Senator Patty Murray

7/14/2006