

LETTER 23 (LOG # 229)

Kathren A. Walling

Kelly Heidecker

From: mike & kathy [mfess@pacifier.com]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 2:50 PM
To: kheidecker@analyticalcorp; kelly Heidecker
Cc: James_Cason@ios.doi.gov
Subject: DEIS Comments cowlitz casino

" DEIS Comments, Cowlitz Casino-Resort Project"

My name is Kathren A. Walling, I live at 5005 NE. 392 St.. La Center, Washington 986929

I gave a formal statement at the DEIS hearing in Vancouver at the Skyview High School, June 15th. What follows is a copy of my statement given that day.

DEIS Comments,

The Cowlitz DEIS fails to consider a range of alternative sites for the Mega Cowlitz Casino resort. NEPA requires the EIS process to consider multiple options. In the EIS only one alternative site is considered, the Ridgefield interchange. One alternative does not satisfy the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA]. The Ridgefield site is too close to La Center and would still cause the projected 66% loss in revenue for the La Center card rooms, as stated in La Center EIS study done by EcoNorthwest on Impacts due to the Cowlitz Casino.

The negative impacts to Clark County far out weigh the benefits to the Cowlitz Tribe. A site near Vader Washington, off I-5, is near the Cowlitz aboriginal home, its largest present day population and would generate earnings to satisfy the tribes needs.

The Cowlitz DEIS states that the amount of children added to school districts as "relatively insignificant" and finds that fewer than 2 students would enrolled in the Ridgefield, La Center and woodland school districts.

At the present time Ridgefield and La Center are operating beyond capacity and are resorting to a temporary solution of portable calssrooms. Ridgefield has 22 portable classrooms and La Center has nine with one being used as a school district office. The proposed casino will stimulate a forcasted additional 73 students in La Center at the impacted cost of \$610,390, according to EcoNorthwest. Ridgefield would see 96 additional students with an operating cost of \$865,171. The Cowlitz Casino would put pressure on the school districts not just for additional operating costs but also to add building capacity, which would be an added burden on property owners due to frequent school levies, thus increasing tax's.

Finally, I would like to suggest a second optional solution for a Cowlitz Casino.

It is know that the Cowlitz own 16% of 196,000 acres that are contiguous to the Quinault Reservation. These lands are allotted lands that are in Cowlitz tribal members names. Why not let the Cowlitz have these lands put into trust for the Cowlitz tribe so they can do what they want with their own lands and build a casino on the lands the already own. A new trend on Tribal Reservations is to build a second casino. The Quinault have a casino on their lands, why do they not want to help their Tribal Cowlitz brothers become self sufficient and stop fighting the Cowlitz's right to do what they want on their own lands.

Respectfully,

Kathren A. Walling [email] mfess@pacifier.com

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