



LUP Hearings <lup-hearings@multco.us>

Written Testimony - Natural Resources

1 message

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To: LUP-Hearings@multco.us

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Written Testimony:

Cris Courter, Homeowner, Dodge Park Blvd.

Re NATURAL RESOURCES

The construction activities by the PWB on the 100 acre industrial water filtration plant have completely changed the quiet, peaceful, tranquil and serene pastoral nature of the area surrounding the site. That is to say that the natural resources in the area have changed dramatically. The noise and vibrations, the 500+ truck trips per day, the pollution, the odors, and results of the general construction actions are clear. The results of those issues have negatively effected the natural resources in the area.

The site sits on an immense aquifer deep under the tremendous mound of dirt which forms a huge hill of earth. This influences all of the rest of the natural resources. The web of that aquifer's influence is diverse and almost immeasurable . That aquifer contributes to the health of the surrounding area. It's trees , shrubs and all the flora are impacted problematically by the construction. (Inconceivable that the PWB cut down more than 350 mature trees {50-100 yr. Old} before they actually had Land Use Approval for the project. The trees provided habitat for the ground animals and birds, drainage and water absorption and natural boundaries and clean air. That was an immoral act on their part. There is/was no other way to see that.)

Johnson Creek headwaters lie at the foot of the great mound. The PWB started pumping one million gallons of ground water per day at the site and dumping it into Johnson Creek. Removing the ground water itself is devastating enough and putting that water , now contaminated with chemicals from the building of the facility, directly into Johnson Creek which flows directly into the Willamette River was and continues to be unconscionable . (This is still going on).

The aquifer also has impact on the soils surrounding the site. All the flora, including Western Red Cedar, Doug Fir, and Maples and other trees get their water from this aquifer. And equally important, for residence in the area on well-water that aquifer is their primary drinking water and household water. The aquifer sustains the very water those residence depend on to survive. Not only that, but the PWB is going to drill right into the aquifer to access that water to use for their construction. More abuse of the aquifer. In other words, it could dry up the wells in the surrounding area if all this water gets pumped to low enough levels. Tragic for the community. To note, our neighbors well was "compromised" , essentially became useless, when a PWB test well was being drilled 75 ft. from their well. They had to have another well drilled to have drinking water ! And, incredibly , they had to sue the PWB to get the new well drilled.

The 'larger' animal populations in the area have plummeted. There are no more elk herds crossing our property. The deer populations that used to be seen on a regular basis each evening, 5-6 deer, are no longer to be seen. You used to be able to hear the coyotes bark in the next door nurseries and nearby forests but we do not hear them anymore. Where have they gone ?

Bird observations have dropped dramatically also. The great flocks of Canadian Geese no longer drop down onto the floor of the nurseries next door. This year we have not seen one flock landing because of the disastrous building activities at the site area. The great horned owls that used to "hoot" each evening in the cedars around our home are no where to be seen or heard. Red Tailed Hawks that used to circle overhead looking for prey have vanished. Even the occasional mountain lions that we would see 2 or 3 times a year are apparently too spooked off by the building activities and noises. Raccoon and squirrel numbers have dropped considerably also. Formerly a daily sight. There was one

Exhibit N.6

golden eagle nesting in the tree tops in the Johnson Creek area but that magnificent creature is no long there.

The “ connection” of all of these elements in the natural resource definition constitutes the wonderful character of this particular area which is rural and pastoral. The clear evidence of its breakdown resulting from the construction of the industrial water facility is unmistakable .
The environment is being annihilated .

Sincerely

~ Cris Courter