

Character of the Area

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Our family of eight lives on Dodge Park Blvd, directly southeast of and proximate to the proposed site for the filtration project on Carpenter Lane. We moved here from SE Portland in 2013 to escape the noise, traffic, and hustle and bustle of the city. We were able to successfully find peace and quiet on our idyllic 10 acres. We enjoy the country; farming our blueberries, raising goats, pigs, and chickens, and being in a place where our kids are safe and have an opportunity to be surrounded by nature.

There are several aspects of our pastoral community that we greatly value. These aspects help define the character of the area which set us apart from urban areas and other rural areas. These include, natural sounds and quiet, the sound of the Sandy River, wildlife – including big game, safe roads for running and cycling, and the night sky.

The sounds around our home are mostly natural and include wind blowing through our forest of Douglas Fir and Cedar. We love to hear our resident owls and other birds of prey at all hours of the day and night, including Great Horned owl, barn owl, red tailed hawk, bald eagle. In the evening we can hear the rushing sounds of the Sandy River. We enjoy the sounds of the farm activity in the neighboring nursery, including tractors humming and farm workers singing in the fields. We are also happy that farm activity ends between 3 and 4pm and the natural sounds return for us to enjoy after a long day at work.

In the fall we regularly hear the calling and movements of elk. For as long as we've lived at our home, elk bed down in our front pasture in the middle of the night. For the last few years, we were able to count upwards of 20 head of elk from our wildlife cameras. In addition to the elk, we have deer that feed on our fallen apples. They also bed down in our fields with their young. Black bears visit our blueberry farm at the end of the season and climb our apple trees throughout the fall to get their fill for the winter.

We are an active, running and cycling family. We run the roads almost everyday and all of our children run on their own as they train for cross country and track seasons. We feel safe running on our roads, including Dodge Park Blvd, Lusted Rd, Altman Rd, Cottrell/347th, and Carpenter Lane, which lack sidewalks or other protections from cars. We feel safe allowing our children to run on their own on our roads. Neighbors, the only people who regularly use the roads in the area, are aware of runners, walkers, and cyclists and take great care in ensuring a safe environment for those of us on the roads.

The night sky is incredible. There are no street lights or industrial lights near us. We see so many stars similar to what is seen if you were camping in the wilderness. Just 3 miles toward Gresham or Sandy will result in a different night sky – more light pollution, less stars.

Given Portland Water Bureau's proposal to build and operate an industrial facility on the 96 acres next to our family's property is inconsistent with the character of our area. If this facility is approved and is in full operation 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, our community's quiet rural nature, the safety on our roads for runners and bikers, the migration and rearing patterns of wildlife, and the subtle natural sounds that we cherish would be taken away from this community forever.

Exhibit H.23.j