

Our names are Rick and Carol Bartha. We have lived in our home on Dodge Park Blvd for almost 35 years. We raised our children on our beautiful 6 wooded acres with pasture and a view of Mount Hood.

We moved our family to this community from Gresham to enjoy the rural experience, the peace and quiet, the tall trees and open fields, the wildlife and closeness of recreational activities. The concern of our family and that of our community is that if Portland Water Bureau (PWB) is allowed to build their huge industrial water filtration plant, our rural community will forever lose the character that makes this place so special.

If you have not lived in our community you will not fully understand its' character. We would like to share with you some of our experiences. On morning I was driving down Dodge Park Blvd on my way to work. Right before the top of the hill I was forced to stop and wait for a huge herd of elk to cross the road. I counted 25 elk, but did not see the elk at the front of the herd that crossed before I arrived. Later on I discovered that the herd that I witnessed is named the Sandy River Elk herd that migrates through the property where the PWB proposes an industrial site, then the herd crosses both Carpenter Lane and Dodge Park Blvd on their way to the Sandy River.

Another time I was outside and heard a commotion, looked up our driveway and discovered that a huge Bull Elk with a magnificent rack was headed down our driveway. Many of our community members have had similar experiences, not just with elk, but deer, cougar, bears, owls, coyotes, mountain lions, raccoons, rabbits, osprey eagles Hawkes, woodpeckers and many other wildlife. A few years ago I made a bird feeding area on our property and once counted 14 different species of birds feeding in my backyard.

We have so many different types of wildlife in our area that our property has been designated a Wildlife Habitat as part of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Management Program. As a part of this agreement, we are required to do several things to benefit wildlife. A couple of those things are to limit noise and lighting on our property and only mow our field during certain times of the year to protect ground nesting species. A 96 acre industrial plant directly across the street and up the hill from us would be detrimental to our efforts. In addition to the plant, boring under Dodge Park Blvd along our property line will negate any actions we take to protect wildlife and would no doubt decrease the number and diversity of wildlife currently living on the land in our community.

The amount of traffic, especially during the four year construction phase would be detrimental to many species. The numbers of deer, elk, squirrels and other animals hit by vehicles would increase dramatically. The industrial noises, lights and fences would contribute to a loss of wildlife in our community. Those losses will not be able to be recovered.

Our community is a Mecca for walkers, runners and bicyclists. The Sam Barlow High School cross country and track teams use our roads for training throughout the year. The Hood to Coast runners run and drive our roads. You often see individuals and families walking, jogging and biking year round. The construction and operation of this plant will put our citizens in danger on our own roads.

We are also concerned about the safety of the agricultural workers in their trucks, tractors and farm vehicles. Our roads were not meant to carry the amount of traffic this project would bring. Our roads are already in terrible shape causing us to look like drunk drivers serving to miss all the potholes.

As retired teachers with the Gresham Barlow School District, we are both concerned for our students and our parents picking up their children from school. Parents line up on Dodge Park

Blvd to pick their children up from the Orient schools. The inexperienced high school drivers hurrying to school in the morning so they're not late or racing out of the parking lot for lunch or at the end of the day at Barlow High School will be driving on the same roads as over 100 construction vehicles a day during construction and chemical trucks during operation of the industrial plant. Our school busses will also be sharing the road with these vehicles. Add to that the fact that Oregon Trail Academy is located almost next door to the property of the proposed plant. PWB is also proposing putting in a road right next to the school driveway. These students are also dropped off and picked up by parents and busses.

The trees, smells, quiet, the sound of the rushing water of the Sandy River, the sunrises and sunsets, the dark night sky filled with stars, amazing views of Mount Hood all contribute to the peace and tranquility of our community. Our friends visiting from other areas remark to us that as they drive down Dodge Park Blvd to our home their blood pressure drops and they are in a very relaxed state of mind sitting on our quiet front porch looking at the trees and beautiful views.

As you can see from our testimony and that of our neighbors, our beautiful rural community was not designed for a huge industrial water plant. The plant does not fit the character of our area. The PWB has not been a good neighbor in the process so far and we expect that they will not be in the future. The property in question was not zoned for an industrial plant for a reason. Please do not change the land use designation to allow the PWB's proposed industrial plant.