

Mr. Berezowsky, City of Sequim staff, and Sequim City Council,

For the benefit of our City Council and the Dep. of Ecology representative who was excluded from the reply, please take a moment to read my prior email below and Barry's response. My discussion with Barry is a reasonable request, certainly under these circumstances - We ask to delay the time frame for the citizens of Sequim to respond to the MDNS for a mere two weeks. I did not ask for an unreasonably long time and I did not ask to extend the 120 day deadline as Barry suggested. Time is of the essence, please consider our plea.

- The reasons in my first message are clear and humble. It is not a gimmick. It is real and these are real people you dismiss.
- It seems too obvious to mention, but the COVID-19 outbreak brings specific limitations with it.
- Under the best of circumstances the prescribed two week response time is difficult for experts, not to mention lay persons.
- An average application does not involve this kind of complex subject matter, multiple agencies, and a foreign nation. Additional research is therefore required.
- Despite the fact that you have elected to exclude relevant points from being evaluated in the MDNS, it is our duty to bring those to your attention.
- That you would defer your decision to the applicant for permission speaks volumes. Please refer to RCW 36.70B.080 below. Permission is not necessary.

#### *RCW 36.70B.080*

Development regulations – Requirements – Report on implementation costs.

(1) Development regulations adopted pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040 must establish and implement time periods for local government actions for each type of project permit application and provide timely and predictable procedures to determine whether a completed project permit application meets the requirements of those development regulations. The time periods for local government actions for each type of complete project permit application or project type should not exceed one hundred twenty days, unless the local government makes written findings that a specified amount of additional time is needed to process specific complete project permit applications or project types.

This means the City Council may make written findings that an additional TWO weeks to respond to the MDNS is needed, which it is.

Nothing here implies that this time is needed by City Staff, we have seen the rocket speed with which staff has performed their duties on this application. Nothing here suggests we are asking to extend the 120 days. There are still 60 days remaining until May 26 and allowing two more weeks for citizens to reply to the MDNS would give you 46 days to publish your pending approval. It is doubtful any responses we submit will deter you from that deadline and goal, but citizens deserve the right to be on the record if they wish to participate in this public process.

Under the current conditions, CITIZENS DO NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO ACCESS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR SOME OF THEM TO PARTICIPATE. In one example, I received an email from an individual whose wife has been hospitalized from COVID-19. He would like to send a fully researched response but is in quarantine. He would like to consult with city staff, experts, and friends but cannot do so face to face. He can't collaborate, share ideas or diagrams, question studies included in this 349 page document, or access City Hall.

The unfortunate message in dismissing our request out of hand is that you make your position clear - hearing from your constituents is not a priority, despite an epidemic. It does not even seem to be an interest. Rather your actions suggest you consider public participation to be a nuisance and something to be swatted away expeditiously.

The irony of this approach is not missed. You suggest that not approving this terrible project outright will somehow bring the city afoul of the ADA (our attorney disagrees). Yet the very actions you take to exclude citizens from participating in this public process during an epidemic threaten the very same ADA laws you so vigorously defend. Your hypocrisy is glaring.

I anticipate your plan is to approve the A2 application as quickly as possible and be rid of it and the nagging public that dogs your every step. We all know your approval will be contested so this is not a threat, but this decision to exclude citizens from the process won't look good for the City of Sequim when we see you in court.

Hope you reconsider.  
Jodi Wilke