



King County

Reagan Dunn

Councilmember, District 9

Metropolitan King County Council

April 14, 2022

Jim Chan

Division Director for Department of Local Services Permitting Division
35030 SE Douglas St., Ste. 210
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

Dear Director Chan:

I am writing in response to the troubling decision issued today by the Permitting Division of the Department of Local Services to approve the permit application put forward by Lakeside Industries for building permit COMM18-0014 and shoreline permit SHOR18-0032 (“asphalt plant”).

I have long maintained that allowing an asphalt plan in a rural area, along SR 169 and just feet away from the Cedar River, is shockingly poor land use policy—and one that not only goes against King County’s central value of environmental preservation, but our state and county’s growth management policy that aims to preserve rural character.

The environmental risks associated with siting an asphalt plant so close to the Cedar River, a vital environmental resource, are extremely concerning. The Cedar River is crucial habitat for vulnerable Chinook, Coho, Sockeye, and Kokanee salmon, which King County dedicates great resources to preserving through initiatives such as habitat restoration and fish passage improvements—making the siting of an asphalt plant along similar habitat diametrically opposed to other investments made by King County government. Perhaps equally as concerning is that the risk of contamination threatens the safety of the Cedar River as a primary source of drinking water for 1.4 million people in our region.

I am also greatly sympathetic to the surrounding rural community that will bear the burden of other known impacts of the asphalt plant, such as toxic air pollutants, silica dust exposure, high levels of noise, noxious odors, increased traffic, and declining property values. This is a community that for decades has already suffered through the environmental and economic impacts of residing so close to King County’s Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. Over 10,000 residents of Renton, Maple Valley, Fairwood, the East Renton Highlands, and Hobart have signed a petition created by Citizens to Stop the SR 169 Asphalt Plant opposing the plant due to the pollution, traffic, and other harmful effects it could bring.

In strongest possible terms, I urge the Permitting Division in the executive branch of County government to reconsider allowing an asphalt plant to be built at this environmentally sensitive rural location. As the decision currently stands, I am concerned that you will not hold Lakeside Industries to the highest possible standard and fail to impose the maximum mitigation measures required for this type of use. These include, but are not limited to, paying for the impact of their facility on infrastructure, for air

quality monitoring, dust barriers, and other environmental mitigations. These items would be the least King County should mandate to preserve our environment, protect struggling salmon population, and protect the people of the greater Renton and Maple Valley areas in Southeast King County. Thank you for reconsidering this decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reagan Dunn".

Reagan Dunn
King County Councilmember
District 9

Cc: John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services