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9-13-2017
J.7.2

Agenda Items J.7.1 and J.7.2

1 message

Kimberly Rhodemyre <klrhode.re@sbcglobal.net>

Wed, Sep 6, 2017 at 11:44 AM

Reply-To: Kimberly Rhodemyre <klrhode.re@sbcglobal.net>

To: "cityclerk@reno.gov" <cityclerk@reno.gov>

Cc: David Bobzien <bobziend@reno.gov>, Duerr Naomi <duerrn@reno.gov>, Jenny Brekhus <brekhusj@reno.gov>, Oscar Delgado <delgadoo@reno.gov>, Wayne/Linda Sievers <lwsievers@hotmail.com>, John Saludes <jsaludes63@hotmail.com>, Eric Cole <esckjc@sbcglobal.net>, Paul McKenzie <mckenziep@reno.gov>, Neoma Jardon <jardonn@reno.gov>, Hillary Schieve <schieveh@reno.gov>

Dear Mayor Schieve and Reno City Council Members,

In 2011 the City of Reno became cognizantly aware of serious health and safety issues with the lands that are in the Steamboat Creek watershed and floodplain. Staff, and subsequently Council, learned of the significant amounts of Mercury and Arsenic in this watershed and have proceeded to ignore it every since.

The Coalition had fought hard to get this issue recognized during the permitting process of the SEC and have made regular requests to the City Council to require mercury and arsenic testing on lands that are either in the planning stages of development, or are actually approved and not yet developed in this watershed. It is quite disturbing that the previous and the current Councils have chose to dismiss these serious safety issues regarding these contaminated lands when considering development projects that are in these areas.

At one point there was to be a presentation by NDEP to the Council to discuss responsibility of contaminated lands, which ended up being tabled, and despite our repeated requests to our Council member, has not been brought back to Council. Now it appears there are hundreds of houses being built south of South Meadows Drive and east of Veterans Pkwy and east of Long Meadow Drive - and now you are considering auctioning off city owned property at the corner of Veterans Pkwy and Long Meadow Drive. Most likely to someone who wants to develop it.

We want to remind everyone just how much mercury was found in the project site of the SEC. So much that it became an issue with the SEC project and they had to pull their original permit in 2012 and submit a new permit with mitigation to "sequester" over 20,000 lbs of very harmful mercury on contaminated land. Yet the City approves one development after another in areas that are UPSTREAM from the SEC testing sight and could, common sense indicates, have even more mercury than was found further downstream. How can this serious safety issue not be a priority for this Council? In future, since it is relatively common knowledge, and the information is all over the web, people will be able to find out that the City of Reno was well aware of the dangers, yet approved untested development anyway.

All lands and all development in the Steamboat Creek floodplain and watershed should be required to be tested for hazardous chemicals, period. The fact that it is not being done rests

the responsibility and the blame for any future child or adult health issues squarely on your shoulders. Because you know. You know, and are doing nothing to protect future residents.

The Coalition would like to again strongly recommend that the City of Reno staff and subsequently the Reno City Council, remember that any development in the Steamboat Creek watershed/floodplain needs to have comprehensive grid testing done, down to 20 feet (in case someone wants to install an in-ground pool) to protect future families from finding out about potential hazardous chemicals through a devastating diagnosis from their doctor.

Respectfully,

The Upper South East Communities Coalition Board of Directors

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Mission Statement

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracle of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it".Lyndon Johnson