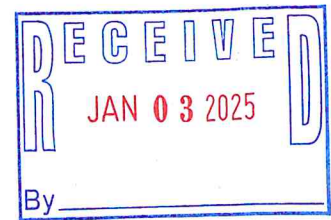


JUSTIN MCKINLAY

Rose resident

01/2/2025



Bingham County Planning and Zoning Commission
501 North Maple Street
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Subject: Objection to Proposed Gravel Pit/Asphalt Plant in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

Dear Members of the Bingham County Planning and Zoning Commission,

I am writing to formally express my deep concern regarding the proposed gravel pit/asphalt plant project near the Snake River, located in what is classified as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

Key Concerns:

1. High Flood Risk Area:

- The proposed site is in a high-risk floodplain, as designated by FEMA (Special Flood Hazard Area – SFHA).
- Development in such areas poses significant risks, including increased flood hazards, water contamination, and erosion.

2. Lack of Visible Compliance with Regulatory Permits:

- I have not seen any evidence that the applicant has obtained the necessary Floodplain Development Permit from Bingham County.
- There is no publicly available documentation indicating compliance with FEMA's NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) regulations, nor permits from the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 404 Permit).
- No Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been made available for public review.

3. Environmental and Water Quality Concerns:

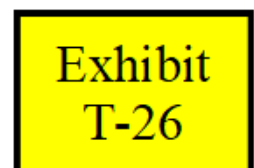
- Gravel pits and asphalt plants have well-documented environmental risks, including runoff pollution, sediment disturbance, and hazardous chemical leaks that could contaminate the Snake River and downstream water supplies.
- These risks directly violate standards set by the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Idaho Pollution Discharge Elimination System (IPDES).

4. Community Impact:

- The project could pose long-term risks to public safety, property values, and the ecological health of the Snake River ecosystem.
- Increased truck traffic, noise, and dust emissions are additional concerns for local residents.

Request for Immediate Action:

- 1. Permit Documentation Transparency:**



- I respectfully request the immediate public release of all permits associated with this project, including:

- Floodplain Development Permit
- Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Section 404 Permit (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- Idaho Pollution Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) Permit

2. Comprehensive Environmental Review:

- I urge the Commission to require a thorough Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Hydraulic and Hydrology Studies to assess the potential impacts on flood risk, water quality, and surrounding ecosystems.

3. Adherence to FEMA Floodplain Management Standards:

- The project must fully comply with FEMA Region 10's floodplain regulations to ensure no increase in flood hazards.

4. Public Hearing and Transparency:

- I request a formal public hearing where citizens can voice concerns and receive clear answers from the applicant and responsible agencies.

Conclusion:

In closing, I ask the Commission to deny or delay approval of this project until the applicant has demonstrated full compliance with federal, state, and local floodplain management and environmental protection laws.

The integrity of the Snake River watershed and the safety of our community depend on careful and transparent decision-making.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns. I look forward to your response and to participating in any forthcoming public discussions or hearings on this matter.

Sincerely,

Justin McKinlay

CC:

- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ)
- Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 10
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Walla Walla District)