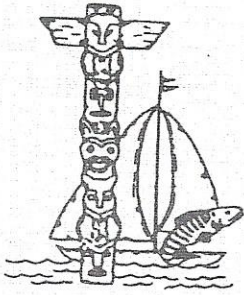


City of Kalama

Incorporated 1890



Public Works

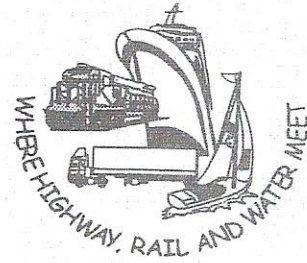
6315 Old Pacific Hwy. S.
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Kalama, WA 98625
(360) 673-3706
FAX: (360) 673-3707

City Hall

195 N. First
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May 10, 2018

Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners
Mr. Joe Gardner, Chair
207 4th Avenue N.
Kelso, WA 98626
Re: Headquarters Landfill

Dear Commissioner Gardner,

It is the Kalama City Council's understanding the Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners is continuing an action to turn over all aspects of the Headquarters Landfill management to a private entity. The persistence of the Board of Commissioners in this action comes after hearing concerns from our city staff and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee about a failure to follow appropriate process as outlined in the Interlocal Agreement for Management of Municipal Solid Waste (IAMMSW). It appears an opaque decision-making process was employed related to the valuation of the asset, and the potential long-term liability for the citizens. Ultimately the Board of Commissioners seems to be arriving at a decision to outsource landfill operation to a specific applicant without adhering to either Section 4 or Section 5 of the IAMMSW. After yesterday's article in The Daily News "Republic Makes Landfill Offer" it also appears that the deal is a forgone conclusion according to the BOCC.

As advocates for our city's citizens, and your rate payers, we believe the wholesale privatization of the management and operation of Headquarters Landfill is not the best option and could result in negative impacts to current and future families, individuals, and businesses in our community. This belief is a direct consequence of the limited information provided in what appears to be a hurried and clandestine decision-making process, resulting in the selection of Republic Services. The process for decisions related to solid waste utility outlined in the IAMMSW have not been properly employed.

We respectfully request the Board of County Commissioners delay any further action with Republic Services or any other national private waste management corporation until the County staff is able to provide more information. A thorough assessment of impacts and benefits should be made clear to the community through a legitimate public process. Our concerns are greater than, "the county is in line to make a lot of money." There does not appear to be any emergent

circumstances requiring immediate action in this situation, and more time to properly follow the IAMMSW should be taken by the Commissioners.

We would like to remind the Board that the County and the City have cooperated in developing and implementing the Cowlitz County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. The County and the City have jointly contributed to a County managed solid waste reserve fund (ELF) that is recognized to be a joint asset of the County and those Cities who have disposed solid waste at Cowlitz county operated facilities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Reuter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Reuter" clearly distinguishable.

Mayor Mike Reuter
On behalf of the Kalama City Council