

Chelan Substation Siting

Aug, 9 Focus Group Meeting & City Council Meeting

Purpose: Community focus/topic team group meeting in Chelan followed by a Chelan City Council briefing to update on site selection process

Location: Focus group at Chelan PUD office in Chelan (4:30 – 5:30 p.m.)
City Council meeting at City Hall (6 p.m.)

Attendance: Wendy Isenhart, Sue Crinklaw, Kelly Allen, Steve Firman, Fred Cleveland, John Dryer, Tom Anglin, Michael Gibb
PUD staff: John Stoll, Andy Wendell, Chad Rissman, Gary Rice, Steve Vaughn, Suzanne Hartman

Focus Group Discussion:

- Andy W led off the meeting with a discussion about the process and an overview of the site selection progress. He also introduced Michael Gibb, a resident of Coyote Hill in the 9/10 site area.
- Michael indicated that he lives near the proposed site or Franzen Orchard property and is attending the meeting on behalf of about 20 nearby residents of Coyote Hill/Henderson Terrace area. Michael complemented the PUD and the community focus group on the work that they have done; that the process has been a logical one; and that there has been transparency. He assured the group that he is not a NIMBY. He did want to convey three essential points to the group:
 - o The process hasn't been entirely inclusive or complete, since there is no representation on the community focus group from the two top areas under consideration resulting in what likely is over-inflated high rankings for the 9/10 area;
 - o The group included area 14 purely for leverage to raise the attractiveness of area 9/10, since area 14 is a much greater distance from the load concentration and would, therefore, be more expensive to build. The belief is that area 14 isn't truly an option;
 - o Something like the South Shore substation should be the goal – that is, out of sight with no visual pollution and in a perfect location.
- Community group member Kelly expressed concern about Michael's observation that the process hadn't been inclusive, saying that there was no exclusion and that group members joined by choice and several opportunities were made available to the greater Chelan community to participate even after the 18 areas were identified. There were some individuals from those higher ranked areas that chose not to include themselves with the review group.
- Staff discussed the reason for the site in area 14 being included as a potential location. It was noted that the site scored well against the established criteria and it was a viable site. In addition, staff discussed the option of potentially purchasing two substation sites if in the overall evaluation it made sense to do so.

- PUD staff indicated that there are still a few pieces of property that are being discussed, but they haven't been vetted through the existing process so they will be tabled until the current sites are fully explored.
- Both Wendy and Kelly wanted to ensure that those property owners who are under discussion with the PUD about specific sites, as well as those in who live near to a potential site, are adequately informed about the process and what it means to them.
- Sue wanted to make sure that a briefing of the Manson Community Council occurred, since the site in area 14 is somewhat close to the Manson area and may impact the fire district.
- PUD staff reminded the group that mailers went out to every property owner in the highest ranked areas to seek potential (and feasible) properties for consideration.
- A couple of suggestions about potential sites in area 7 were discussed, but it was agreed that they were in too much of a gully and/or they were considered sensitive wildlife areas.
- Steve suggested possibly doing a drone fly-over video showing the two prime locations to give people some perspective on the location and the proximity to other neighbors.
- PUD staff said that there will be several components of the actual substation grounds, including fencing, lighting, new noise reduction measures and much more. When the project gets to the more detailed design phase, the adjacent neighbors will be actively engaged in the aesthetics discussion.
- Discussion also centered around public comment and getting the word out to affected folks. PUD staff talked about the ability for folks to give us comments during this preliminary design phase and then there will be another comment period during Commission consideration, as well as when the District files a Conditional Use Permit for the actual substation site. Staff emphasized that the process wouldn't be rushed and that we would do all that we can to gather feedback.
- The group sent their "thanks" to Teka for her efforts to keep people informed and engaged – expressing that it's a thankless job and she tackles it well and always in a friendly, encouraging way.

The group meeting adjourned, John and Suzanne attended the Chelan City Council meeting for a briefing.

- John described the progress so far with the North Shore substation site plans, including the two identified pieces of property. He talked about next steps and the proposed schedule moving forward. He also invited public comment and a fact sheet/FAQ was distributed.
- John re-iterated to both the City Council and the community group that no agreements or commitments have been made with the property owners
- The Council thanked the PUD for the outstanding outreach and engagement efforts after a bit of a rocky start. Councilmember Dobbs expressed his appreciation for the transparency and cooperation from the PUD.