



Blaine County School District #61

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July 23, 2009

Hailey Planning and Zoning Commission
115 Main Street South
Hailey, Idaho 83333

RECEIVED

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SUBJECT: Support to locate a fueling operation at the BCSD Bus Maintenance Facility

Dear Commission Members,

Please consider my unique perspective as I convey my support for the proposed fueling operation at the Bus Maintenance Facility submitted by the Blaine County School District #61. My affiliation is threefold:

1. I served on the Strategic Planning Committee of 100+ community members that met over the course of a year to disseminate thousands of thoughts and ideas to provide direction for the District for the next 10 years. One of the results of this process is for the District to place a high emphasis on implementing steps to reduce our resource use. Plans are under way to curtail power consumption through lighting upgrades and variable frequency motor controls, reduce our water usage by updating our Maxicom hardware, and to modernize our heating systems to be more efficient and improve indoor air quality. Essentially, the District would like to become more "green". Making the effort to obtain biodiesel fuel and utilize it in the bus fleet would help support this effort.

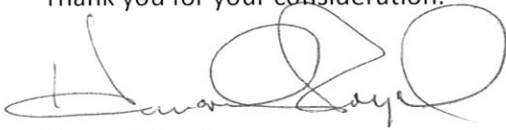
2. I served on the Blaine County School District Board of Trustees from 1995-2006. During my tenure, the task of relocating the Bus Maintenance and Parking Facility became part of the process to expand the current campus to include the new Wood River High School. The existing (inadequate) bus operation had to be removed to improve the roadway access. A number of locations were considered including Croy Canyon, Ohio Gulch, Glendale Road, South Woodside, and Airport West. Some of the criteria for selection included property costs, distance from core travel, environmental impacts (wetlands), and that access to the main highway had to include a stop light to facilitate turning onto the main roadway. Public informational meetings were held and each of the proposed locations was deemed to be unacceptable. We came full circle back to the Fox Acres location and started the process to place the operation at its current location. As expected, a number of restrictions and stipulations were part of the agreement to build and operate the new facility. One of the requests by the City of Hailey was to continue to pursue the possibility of utilizing biodiesel fuel in our busses. The District has honored that request and is asking to place a safe, industry accepted, and visually aesthetic tank/fueling operation at the lower end of the bus parking area.

3. I am currently employed by the District as the Director of Buildings and Grounds. Our office is located in the same building that houses the Bus Maintenance Facility. Additional tenants in the building include Technology, Food Services, and Student Special Services. Since beginning my employment here nearly 3 years ago, I have commented a number of times regarding the low impact nature of the bus operation. I have been impressed by the lack of fumes, noise, and congestion around this facility. The bus parking area proposed for the fueling station is secluded away from the neighbors (nearly 300' away) and is shielded by a berm and vegetation.

This proposed fueling location, while not perfect, certainly has enough positive merit to be seriously considered for approval. The fuel savings, labor reduction, and decreased exhaust output would be a benefit for the Community and School District alike. An added benefit of being able to comply with the City's long standing request to pursue a biodiesel alternative could also be realized. Understanding the tank is literally bulletproof and will be placed outside of the avalanche zone should quell any safety concerns. This leaves us with the aesthetics which should be easily dealt with using landscape measures.

One more related item is the District's desire to relocate the Maintenance and Food Service components to a property owned by the District in Airport West. This would again reduce the number of vehicle trips in and out of the property by the service technicians, food transport trucks, and paper (dry goods) suppliers. As you can see, the District is serious about lowering our impact to our neighbors by reducing vehicle trips, while at the same time adding value to the overall campus operation.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Royal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Howard Royal
Director of Buildings and Grounds
Blaine County School District #61