

RESOLUTION  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SANDPOINT

**TITLE: SCOPING COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED PACWEST SILICON SMELTER IN  
PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

WHEREAS: The Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) is developing a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed PacWest Silicon Smelter in Pend Oreille County, Washington; and

WHEREAS: In 1997, the City of Sandpoint was designated a moderate PM-10 nonattainment area by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for particulate matter pollution. Since 1997, significant improvements in air quality have been realized due to collaborative and proactive efforts of City leaders, staff and residents to reduce local sources of particulates. In April 2013, the EPA re-designated Sandpoint to attainment status. The smelter description does not articulate the specific types of pollutants that will be released into the air as byproducts of the silicon smelting process, and these byproducts could put our attainment status at risk; and

WHEREAS: The Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Modeling Protocol provided by PacWest in October 2017 states that operation of the smelter will emit approximately 320,000 metric tons per year of carbon dioxide, 760 metric tons per year of sulfur dioxide and 700 metric tons per year of nitrogen oxides, and this is in addition to small and large particulate matter in amounts that are also expected to exceed the PSD threshold; and

WHEREAS: The modeling methods proposed by PacWest to the Washington State DOE to assess air quality impacts of the proposed smelter do not utilize site-specific meteorological monitoring data and are inadequate; and

WHEREAS: Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide airborne pollutants will result from the operation of the proposed smelter that will fall to the ground as acid rain, with the addition of acidic particles to Lake Pend Oreille and other water bodies in the greater Sandpoint area that can have serious impacts on ecosystem health; and

WHEREAS: The project description does not include information about the number of trucks and trains that will be necessary to transport 170,000 tons of quartz rock (by train), 150,000 tons of blue gem coal (by train), and 130,000 tons of wood chips (by truck) each year to the proposed project site in Newport, Washington; and

WHEREAS: Noise within the Sandpoint city limits will increase due to the number of trucks and trains needed to transport raw materials to the proposed project site in Newport, Washington; and

WHEREAS: The City of Sandpoint is branded as a community that offers a high quality of life for residents, visitors and employers. This brand, which includes excellent air and water

quality, has enabled Sandpoint to attract quality employers and needed workforce in a very competitive global market, particularly in technology, medical and tourism sectors. The proposed smelter would tarnish this brand, decreasing Sandpoint's competitive advantage and negatively impacting the City's ability to attract and retain high paying jobs and the workforce to sustain them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Sandpoint City Council hereby approves the submission of the attached draft letter to the Washington State Department of Ecology (WA DOE) recommending that WA DOE:

- 1) Adopt a broad scope that includes the City of Sandpoint and the surrounding region when preparing the draft EIS for the proposed project; and
- 2) Hold future public hearings in the City of Sandpoint; and
- 3) Address the project at full build out rather than the proposed initial phase in the EIS in order to capture the full scope of impacts to the region throughout the project duration; and
- 4) Adequately study air quality, water quality, transportation, meteorological, economic and noise impacts for the region; and
- 5) Consider the "No Action" alternative for the proposed project; and
- 6) Articulate how the existing penalty structure will be revised or additional requirements will be imposed above and beyond the typical penalty structure when violations occur; and
- 7) Develop a full decommissioning and cleanup plan; and
- 8) Evaluate other sites that will not have impacts on the City of Sandpoint.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Sandpoint City Council opposes the proposed PacWest Silicon Smelter.

  
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 Shelby Rognstad, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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 Melissa Ward, Acting Deputy City Clerk

City Council Members:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
1. Eddy				X
2. Aitken	X			
3. Williamson	X			
4. Ruehle	X			
5. Aispuro				X
6. Darling	X			