

August 7, 2019

To: The Walla Walla District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
From: The Executive Board of the Alliance for a Livable and Sustainable Community (ALSC),
Tri-Cities, Washington
Re: Comments on request by the City of Kennewick for the disposal of ~ 72 acres of land in
Columbia Park, Kennewick, WA under the Water Resources Development Act of 1996,
Section 501(i).

Dear Corps Members:

The Executive Board of the ALSC is writing you with respect to development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the effects of the Corps disposing of Columbia Park land to the City of Kennewick.

For some months, we have been working to assure full citizen involvement in a much larger proposed 'reconveyance' of Columbia River waterfront to the Cities of Kennewick, Richland, Pasco, Benton and Franklin Counties through legislative means. That effort has been led by Tri-Dec (the Tri-City Development Council). You may be aware of the considerable controversy and concern it has aroused in citizen's and environmental organizations here in the region with its potential negative impacts on fish and wildlife and long-standing public recreation, as well as tribal land use rights.

For that reason, we prefer this alternative land transfer method, if any land transfer is considered, because we believe that the Corps' EA process will be open, rigorous and documented. We also have reviewed the City of Kennewick's plans for the transferred land, and if these are adhered to in development, we believe that the changes would make a positive and valuable transformation of the park area.

Although we question the wisdom of **any** Columbia River waterfront land transfer from overall Corps control at this time, due to the uncertainties of Climate Change impacts on the Columbia, and the vagaries in the ongoing Columbia River Treaty renewal, we believe that a land transfer under WRDA is the preferred method.

Our concern in seeing such transfers under WRDA continue to other cities, ports and counties in a piece-meal method is for the Cumulative Impacts that will occur, and we are asking the Corps to take special consideration of this possibility and conduct a full EA for all land disposals submitted under WRDA in our region. As the singular citizen's group concerned broadly with Sustainability and Livability here in the Tri-Cities, we stand ready to work proactively with any municipality receiving land under WRDA in order to assure that citizen involvement is maintained and the results are the best for our communities.

Sincerely,
James A. Wise, Steve Mallory, Alison Cable, Carl Berkowitz