



*Satpal Singh Sidhu*  
*Whatcom County Executive*



May 3, 2022

John Gold, District Manager  
Sierra Pacific Industries  
Email. [jgold@spi-ind.com](mailto:jgold@spi-ind.com)

Dear John:

Thank you for meeting with us regarding restoring public vehicle access to Canyon Lake Community Forest. Whatcom County, along with our other community partners have a considerable investment in the Community Forest and are committed to providing vehicle access for the public to this incredible resource. This is a high priority for the County and I would hope our residents can again access to their forest this summer.

Please know that we are requesting a permanent easement from Sierra Pacific Industries on the CL 1000 Road from the property boundary with Department of Natural Resources on the north to our current existing easement. I have attached a draft easement for SPI review and edit. Please share with the appropriate decision makers and respond back to me so we can proceed.

As the easement being requested is for a new road segment, Whatcom County agrees to cost share on the maintenance and improvements for this segment necessary for the public's use of it. This would include signage, pullouts, side gates along with regular maintenance needs. If the basis for cost sharing requires vehicle counts to the forest, the County can easily provide these numbers to inform the formula. If SPI would like the County to share in a similar arrangement for the County's existing easement, I would consider that request which would be handled in a separate maintenance agreement, not part of this easement request.

We have reviewed your letter of 9/30/2021 and offer the following. The County will address access issues on non-Sierra Pacific Industries owned properties separately with their owners when needed. To be clear, this easement agreement is only with Sierra Pacific Industries and the section of the CL 1000 Road on its property.

Page 2, SPI  
May 3, 2022

Please understand that the County cannot enforce trespass issues not specific to the road easement areas. Our Parks staff will be glad to help assist Sierra Pacific Industries in helping to mitigate any use issues along the road easement the County has rights to, but regulating uses by others on private timberlands owned by Sierra Pacific Industries and other roads the County doesn't have rights to is not something we can commit to.

Likewise, we cannot be responsible for lock-ins when other parties and contractors are responsible for opening and closing gates after their use. The County's easement road to the forest would remain available to the public except when closed during the winter months, during fire season closures and when harvest activities directly impact the road easement. As we have in the past, when there is public vehicle access to the forest, our staff will work to help inform the public when closures occur on the access road.

John, I thank you for your efforts on this important request and look forward to a favorable response from Sierra Pacific Industries.

Regards,



Satpal Singh Sidhu

Whatcom County Executive

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Rand Jack: [randjack@gmail.com](mailto:randjack@gmail.com)