

The proposed Regional Drug Treatment Facility in Sequim has captured the attention of residents in Sequim since its public announcement in May of 2019. Due to its broad public interest, the City of Sequim is obliged to ensure proper and legal management of this proposal, both as a matter of current Sequim municipal code and any relevant matters of history and precedence. In matters of dispute, a cautionary approach would be wise.

Save Our Sequim believes this project merits the most rigorous evaluation process possible. Please refer to our preliminary informational booklet, "Sequim – A Town Worth Saving" for detailed information and references. Some of the important points are summarized below:

1. It makes sense to designate this project as an Essential Public Facility. This precedence is established by the Didgwalic Center in Anacortes, also *designated as an Essential Public Facility* which the Developers refer to as the model they wish to follow. As such, it must be reviewed with the same scrutiny as Didgwalic and as defined by Sequim Municipal Code and the GMA.
2. Broad public interest. SMC differentiates the A2 and C2 processes by this characteristic, among others. We believe this project qualifies for C2 on this basis.
3. Current Zoning allows for medical clinics, but this is not a common medical clinic. It should not be treated as such. Its primary focus is on Addiction Treatment and Behavioral Health, not diabetes and heart disease.
4. Opioid and drug addiction is classified as a Behavioral Health concern. *Studies are directed to analyze this behavioral aspect of the addict because they are real, they exist in a relevant capacity, and they are problematic.* Analysis of homelessness, illicit drug use and criminality are not included in studies about heart disease and diabetes. So although also classified as a medical condition, addiction is unlike Diabetes and Heart disease in that these well-established behavioral concerns are rarely attributed to the diabetic or heart patient.
5. These impacts can be estimated with numerical precision. Based on current local studies, we can anticipate the significance of this impact with a degree of certainty. The irreversible significant impact should be counted.
6. The significant impact of this population is dismissed by the developer. None of these impacts have been adequately accommodated as a part of the developer's plans, nor can they be. The developer instead has ridiculed and dismissed the known impact as imaginary and as fear mongering.
7. Location contributes to significant detrimental impact. Based on close proximity to residential, retail, elder-institutional, and school zones we can anticipate profound and prohibitive effects which may be irreversible.
8. The need for this facility has not been established. Currently, the capacity of seats in the 2-county catchment area is estimated at 2,320. This quantity is nearly twice the national prevalence for opioid addiction. Immediate access to appointments has been established
9. Sequim lacks the resources and population/tax base to afford services. The anticipated social support and public services network of the clientele is not present. Sequim would be overwhelmed. Why should Sequim citizens be expected to finance these services because of a for-profit business venture? The current population of Sequim lacks an adequate tax base to fund the necessary surround services.
10. Drug addict migration is a real thing. According to the DEA online resources, people will migrate the entire length of the US to find lenient social policies allowing greater access to opioids. Methadone is an opioid. More research must be done on this phenomenon and its potential effects on Sequim. A C2 / Essential Public Facility process would allow for this analysis.
11. The developer insists only local people would be served, but WA Law contradicts that claim. One of the requirements for funding is "A commitment by applicants to serve persons who are publicly funded and persons detained under the involuntary treatment act under chapter 71.05 RCW." (HB1102 pg. 30, 2d) *The developers MUST serve such clientele with no reference to their residence of origin.*

For all of these reasons and more, Save Our Sequim encourages a serious rather than indifferent approach to this project. The significant impact of this project can be quantified and soundly established. Our community deserves true representation and advocacy from our City Officials. The project model, The Didgwalic Center is classified as an Essential Public Facility, and this project should likewise bear that title.

Jodi Wilke, Save Our Sequim Chair

PROPOSED MAT FACILITY

DUE TO THE LARGE AMOUNT OF
RESISTANCE THROUGHOUT THE
CITY,

HAS ANYONE SUGGESTED LOCATING
THE PROPOSED FACILITY ON THE
JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBES
PROPERTY IN AND AROUND SOPHUS
ROAD WHERE THEY ARE ALREADY
DOING A LOT OF CONSTRUCTION ?

I THINK THAT LOCATION WOULD
DRAW MUCH LESS DISAPPROVAL
FROM THE PUBLIC.