

FW: Comments against next

Deborah Jacob <Deborah.Jacob@columbiacountyor.gov>

Fri 1/21/2022 8:54 AM

To: Jacyn Normine <Jacyn.Normine@columbiacountyor.gov>; Jesse Winterowd (jesse@winterbrookplanning.com) <jesse@winterbrookplanning.com>; Robin McIntyre <Robin.McIntyre@columbiacountyor.gov>; Robert Wheeldon <Robert.Wheeldon@columbiacountyor.gov>



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Effective January 2022 Land Development Services office has moved to a new location at 445 Port Avenue, St. Helens.

From: Mike Seely <mike@seelymint.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:24 AM

To: ePermits - Planning <planning@columbiacountyor.gov>; Mike Seely <mike@seelymint.com>

Subject: Comments against next

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Mint harvest is contingent upon the quality of the oil and leaf and timing is crucial as a very narrow window is typically available based on plant maturity. Additionally, weather can also play a role in the timing of harvest and the maturity of the plant. Once the optimum maturity is reached, there is a narrow window to cut the mint. Once cut, the mint is allowed to dry for 2-3 days to remove excess moisture. Too much moisture will result in poor quality oil and a more costly extraction process. Additionally, too dry and the plant leaves will shatter when lifted off the ground, with the end result being loss of crop.

When the crop is determined to be the optimum dryness, the harvest process necessitates that continuous and consistently timed loads of mint are distilled. Any interruption in the timing of these trailers either getting to the field or back to the distillery can drastically impact the quality, yields, and the harvest costs for running the distillery. Significant impacts from greater vehicle and train traffic can be expected as delays due to vehicle or train crossings compound and the costs associated with idling the distillery, chopper, trucks and personnel can grow exponentially. Weather impacts from being unable to perform a timely harvest can also render the mint unsaleable as in the case of spearmint that has been rained on (will turn oil red and be unmarketable), or peppermint that develops a musty odor after rain.