

April 15, 2025

Good morning Ms. Mendoza,

Thank you for the follow-up letter expressing your concerns. Without citizens like yourself, we rely on the integrity of property owners to stay within the scope of their approved Conditional Use Permits.

Prior to our meeting with Fryslan (aka Veldhuis Dairy Calf Yard), your complaint was provided to each of our county divisions (building, planning, water resources, fire marshal, transportation) and the Yakima Health District (YHD) for a comprehensive review of the issues before we met with the Veldhuis representatives. The alternative we provided to them with comments from all the divisions and YHD is allowable by Yakima County Code. Your letter points to Yakima County Code (YCC) 21.04.020, which provides the option to apply for land use that would correct the violations if the property owner can demonstrate that the expansion can comply with the Yakima County Code.

As indicated in the EAC, the expansion of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) is a Type 2 land use in the Agriculture zoning district. A Type 2 use means, "Uses allowed upon Type 2 administrative review and approval as set forth in Section 19.30.030 uses subject to review and approval. Type 2 uses require administrative review by the Administrative Official and may be referred to the Hearing Examiner." Expansion of the CAFO would also require review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), which will review the potential impacts of an expansion, such as water use.

Yakima County Code also provides the property owner with the opportunity to obtain compliance through voluntary measures, while reserving our authority to pursue it through the courts if we have exhausted all enforcement actions or the property owner fails to obtain final approval. Regarding your comment about YCC 21.03.050 Administrative Conference, a decision was made to only have the property owner and his or her representatives attend the meeting and provide you with the EAC summary.

We encourage you to stay involved in this process and welcome your participation during any upcoming public hearings or review sessions that may be scheduled. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

Tua Vang

Code Enforcement Manager

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