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COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PARK OPERATIONS ~ JUSTICE SERVICES
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ~VETERANS SERVICES ~ RECREATION/CULTURAL SERVICES

January 20, 2022

Kari Parsons Project Manager El Paso County Development Services Department 2880 International Circle Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Subject: Pike Solar Project WSE-O Application - Colorado Springs Utilities Letter of Denial Response

(WSEO-21-001)

Hello Kari,

The Park Operations Division of the Community Services Department has received a Letter of Denial from Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) in regard to the proposed location of the Kane Ranch Primary Regional Trail through the Pike Solar Energy Project / Lower Williams Creek Reservoir property, located immediately adjacent and southwest of El Paso County Park's 490-acre Kane Ranch Open Space.

El Paso County Parks (EPC) understands and respects CSU's decision to deny public access through the property due to potential safety concerns, state and federal regulations regarding power generation and water storage facilities, and current and future facility construction and operational plans. EPC Parks feels that a trail near such facilities is permissible due to existing public trails near water storage and power generation facilities.

EPC Parks looks forward to working closely with CSU to plan an alternate route for the Kane Ranch Regional Trail, a proposed trail alignment that has been planned and approved since the adoption of the 2013 El Paso County Parks Master Plan, and which will provide a key connection between CSU's Clear Spring Ranch Open Space property and EPC's Kane Ranch Open Space.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ross A. Williams Park Planner

Park Operations Division

Community Services Department

rosswilliams@elpasoco.com





January 19, 2022

El Paso County Planning and Community Development Attn: Kari Parsons 2880 International Circle Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Re: Pike Solar Energy Project - Kane Ranch Regional Trail Access

Ms. Parsons,

The City of Colorado Springs on behalf of Colorado Springs Utilities ("Utilities") owns the two parcels identified by El Paso County Tax Schedule Numbers 56000-00-123 and 56000-00-140 known as the Lower Williams Creek Site ("Site") and is in support of the Pike Solar Project's Wind and Solar Energy overlay zoning application.

Utilities recognizes that El Paso County Parks Master Plan from 2013 depicts a public access trail through the Site; however, at this time Utilities will not approve a public access trail through the Site due to potential safety concerns, state and federal regulations, construction and operational plans.

Utilities is committed to working with El Paso County Parks Department on potential alternatives for the planned trail system in this area.

Please contact me by phone 719-668-7581 or email <u>jedavis@csu.org</u> if you have any further questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Jessica K. Davis

Land Resource Manager Colorado Springs Utilities



