



Engineering & Public Works Department

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DATE: September 18, 2017

TO: Mary Becker, Chair
Public Works and Facilities Committee

FROM: Roger Healy, PE, Director
Engineering and Public Works

SUBJECT: Snow Storage

In the March 20, 2017 PWFC meeting, private snow haulers, represented by Jerry Godkin and Karl Reese, requested that the CBJ open the Downtown Snow Dump behind the Juneau Douglas Treatment Plant (JDTP) to accept snow from private haulers. The demand for private snow storage increased last year when CBJ Docks and Harbors ceased private snow storage at the Juneau Yacht Club over concerns of impacting Yacht Club and D&H's operations. For reasons explained below, it is not a recommended action to open the JDTP site to private haulers; the JDTP site was sized for CBJ street clearing operations and reducing available volumes will increase costs to the CBJ and the public.

CBJ staff have researched other downtown area sites and there may be opportunities for private haulers to pursue snow storage sites other than those previously utilized. These discussions are on-going.

Prior to 2012, snow hauled from CBJ, State, and private roads and parking lots was dumped into the Gastineau Channel. Due to more stringent federal and state regulations, the CBJ appropriated monies in FY09 and FY10 to identify snow storage sites and construct facilities for snow from CBJ Right of Ways. In 2013, snow storage and treatment sites were constructed at the US Forest Service bus parking lot for the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor center and the JD Wastewater Treatment Plant (JDTP). The valley facility is operated under a 5 year permit through the USFS and operation rights cannot be transferred to others. The USFS is undergoing a master planning process for this area and long term use of the site for snow storage may not be compatible with future plans. The CBJ may have to identify, design, and construct a new snow storage site in the Mendenhall Valley area.

The downtown JDTP storage and treatment facility was designed and constructed for snow removed from downtown CBJ Right of Way and sized for a volume of 30,000 cubic yards of snow storage. This volume would accommodate CBJ's Streets snow removal for approximately 80% of Juneau's winters over the last 25 years. Any volumes over these amounts (i.e., 2006-2007 and other winters) would require the CBJ to truck snow to dumps in Lemon Creek or near the Airport, resulting in greatly increased trucking costs. Reducing CBJ's available volumes by allowing private haulers to dump at the JDTP site would increase the likelihood that removal of snow from CBJ's public roads would be of greater expense to the CBJ and the public.

The CBJ's Snow Management Study may be found at:

[http://www.juneau.org/engineering/Snow Storage/Snow Storage.php](http://www.juneau.org/engineering/Snow%20Storage/Snow%20Storage.php)

Operationally, the allowance of private operators into the JDTP site would increase CBJ costs and risks, unless those costs were completely passed through to the private haulers. Hauling schedules of CBJ Streets and private haulers do not usually coincide; with CBJ Streets centered on clearing roads while private haulers are typically hauling parking lot snow to storage sites. CBJ Streets addresses hauling after hours when available personnel and equipment is finished with snow plowing operations. If open to private haulers, the CBJ would require a CBJ operator on site to bulldoze snow and check that haulers are approved in regards to insurance requirements, prior payments to the CBJ, and acceptance of CBJ agreement conditions. If private haulers were allowed to dump in the JDTP site, an approval and billing system similar to the CBJ rock and sand quarries would have to be set up. To distribute costs accordingly, private haulers would have to absorb costs for CBJ equipment operators, equipment rental costs, contract review and approval staff time needed to solicit, review, approve, and sign CBJ/hauler agreements, enforcement activities when appropriate, and billing and accounting costs. It is expected that these costs will not be competitive with costs currently borne by private haulers hauling to private sites.

In summary, allowance of private snow haulers into the CBJ's snow storage sites is not recommended. Due to regulatory changes, the CBJ has had to plan, design, permit, and construct snow storage facilities at considerable costs (~\$1.6 million) to the public. Reducing available storage by allowing private snow haulers could result in increased CBJ costs to haul snow or would increase CBJ capital costs to increase snow storage capacity at other locations.

cc: Rorie Watt, City Manager
Ed Foster, CBJ Streets Superintendent
Michele Elfers, Chief Landscape Architect