Valley County Planning and Zoning

PO Box 1350 • 219 North Main Street Cascade, ID 83611-1350



Phone: 208-382-7115 Fax: 208-382-7119 Email: cherrick@co.valley.id.us

STAFF REPORT:

Appeal of Administrative Decision that a Conditional Use Permit Is

Required for Solar Panels at 13643 Morris Ranch Road

HEARING DATE:

April 13, 2023

TO:

Planning and Zoning Commission

STAFF:

Cynda Herrick, AICP, CFM

Planning and Zoning Director

PROPERTY OWNER:

Cynthia Heiney & Peter Miller

13643 Morris Ranch RD, McCall, ID 83638

LOCATION:

13643 Morris Ranch Road

Parcel RP17N03E148855, in Section 14, T.17N, R.3E, Boise

Meridian, Valley County, Idaho.

PROPERTY SIZE:

10.095 acres

REQUEST:

Appeal of Administrative Decision – Conditional Use Permit is

Required for Detached Solar Panels

EXISTING LAND USE:

Home, Detached Garages, Shed, and Detached Solar Panels

Valley County Code 9-5G-1 states that conditional use permits are required for solar panels greater than eight (8) square-feet that are detached from the primary structure. This requirement has been in effect since 2010.

Staff determined that detached solar panel had been erected at 13643 Morris Ranch Road without approval of a conditional use permit. The solar panel is visible from the Morris Ranch Road and from the Valley County GIS imagery map. The Valley County Assessor's Report includes a picture of the solar panels (attached). See attached pictures and map.

In 2001, Building Permit 2001-65 was obtained for a new garage with a studio apartment. In 2006, Building Permit 2006-607 was obtained to convert existing garage into living space.

According to the State of Idaho Division of Building Safety – Permit Information website, an electrical permit for "solar collectors grid tied" was applied for on October 14, 2013, and finaled on December 20, 2013.

APPEAL:

The current property owner has appealed the *Administrative* decision stating the home was purchased in 2020 with the existing solar panels in place. The onus would have been on the County and the homeowner at the time of installation to see that the permit was acquired, not after the fact.

FINDINGS:

- 1. Solar panels were observed at 13643 Morris Ranch Road by Staff driving on Morris Ranch Road.
- Based on information from building and electrical permits, it was determined that the solar panels were installed without a conditional use permit as required by Valley County Code 9-5G-1A.
- Jody Green, Valley County Code Compliance, sent letter a letter to the property owners of 13643 Morris Ranch Road stating that a conditional use permit is required for the existing solar panel. (February 22, 2023).
- 4. Cynthia Heiney replied with an appeal. (Dated March 3, 2023, Received March 10, 2023)
- 5. Director Cynda Herrick accepted the appeal. Ms. Heiney was sent a letter and a draft agenda. (March 16, 2023)

9-5G-1: SITE OR DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Alternative energy uses requiring a conditional use permit shall meet the following site or development standards:

- A. Solar Panels Greater Than Eight Square Feet In Accumulated Area and Detached From Primary Structure:
 - 1. Must be a minimum of fifteen feet (15') from property lines.
 - 2. Glare shall not create a hazard to vehicular traffic.
 - 3. Cannot be over thirty feet (30') in height.
 - 4. Impact to neighbors will be a determining factor.

STAFF COMMENTS:

- Is the use grandfathered? Ordinance was in place when installed according to the electrical
 permit. The Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners
 have recently upheld an administrative decision that a conditional use permit is required for
 previously installed solar panels without a conditional use permit at 505 Collier View Road.
- 2. How can Ms. Heiney correct this matter?
- 3. Is a conditional use permit required?

ATTACHMENTS:

- Appeal
- Correspondence
- Maps of Site
- Building Permits 2001-65 and 0006-607
- Idaho Division of Building Safety Permit Information
- Valley County Assessor's Office Report for Parcel (Picture of Solar Panels on page 5)
- Valley County Code 9-5H-12 Appeals

END OF STAFF REPORT

Cynthia Heiney 13643 Morris Ranch Road McCall, ID 83638

March 3, 2023

Cynda Herrick Valley County Planning P.O. Box 1350 Cascade, ID 83611

Re: Conditional Use Permit Application - 13643 Morris Ranch Road

Dear Ms. Herrick,

I received a letter in the mail recently with a conditional use permit application for "placement of solar panels".

We purchased our home in 2020 with the existing solar panels in place. We did not install them. They apparently have been on the property since shortly after the house was built. As these would have required an electrical inspection by the county at the time of installation, I would think that the county would have been aware of the panels at that time and required a conditional use permit then. This house was built in 2003 and the solar panels installed shortly thereafter. The life expectancy of home solar batteries is between 5 and 15 years, so the batteries associated with the panels are at the end of their life expectancy as is and are not generating much electricity.

We are already dealing with the challenges of rising property taxes for the increase in sale's prices in the last two years. We all know the property taxes will not recede when the inflated sale's prices recede.

I respectfully request an exoneration for this conditional use permit and its fee as we did not install these panels and feel that the onus would have been on the county and the homeowner at the time of installation, to see that this permit was acquired, not after the fact.

Cynthia Heiney

Valley County Planning and Zoning

PO Box 1350 • 219 North Main Street Cascade, ID 83611-1350



Phone: 208-382-7115 Email: jgreen@co.valley.id.us

February 22, 2023

Cynthia Heiney and Peter Miller 13643 Morris Ranch RD McCall ID 83638

RE: 13643 Morris Ranch RD - RP17N03E148855

To Cynthia Heiney and Peter Miller:

It has come to my attention that you have a solar panel on your property at 13643 Morris Ranch RD. Valley County has an ordinance: Alternative Energy Uses (VC 9-5G-1) that requires a Conditional Use Permit for placement of solar panels.

9-5G-1: SITE OR DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS: Alternative energy uses requiring a conditional use permit shall meet the following site or development standards:

- A. Solar Panels Greater Than Eight Square Feet In Accumulated Area And Detached From Primary Structure:
 - 1. Must be a minimum of fifteen feet (15') from property lines.
 - 2. Glare shall not create a hazard to vehicular traffic.
 - 3. Cannot be over thirty feet (30') in height.
 - 4. Impact to neighbors will be a determining factor.

I have included a copy of the ordinance and a Conditional Use Permit application. The application fee is \$300. Please submit the application or contact our office before March 6th.

If you have questions about the Conditional Use Permit process, you can contact Cynda Herrick at 208-382-7116 or email at cherrick@co.valley.id.us.

Sincerely.

Jody Green

Code Compliance

Valley County Planning and Zoning

PO Box 1350 • 219 North Main Street Cascade, ID 83611-1350



Phone: 208-382-7115

Email: lhunter@co.valley.id.us

March 16, 2023

CYNTHIA HEINEY 13643 MORRIS RANCH RD MCCALL, ID 83638

To Ms. Heiney,

RE: Appeal of Administrative Decision that a Conditional Use Permit Is Required for Solar Panels at 13643 Morris Ranch Road

We have received your appeal letter regarding the solar panels at 13643 Morris Ranch Road. The PZ Commission will discuss your appeal on April 13, 2023, and determine if a conditional use permit is required.

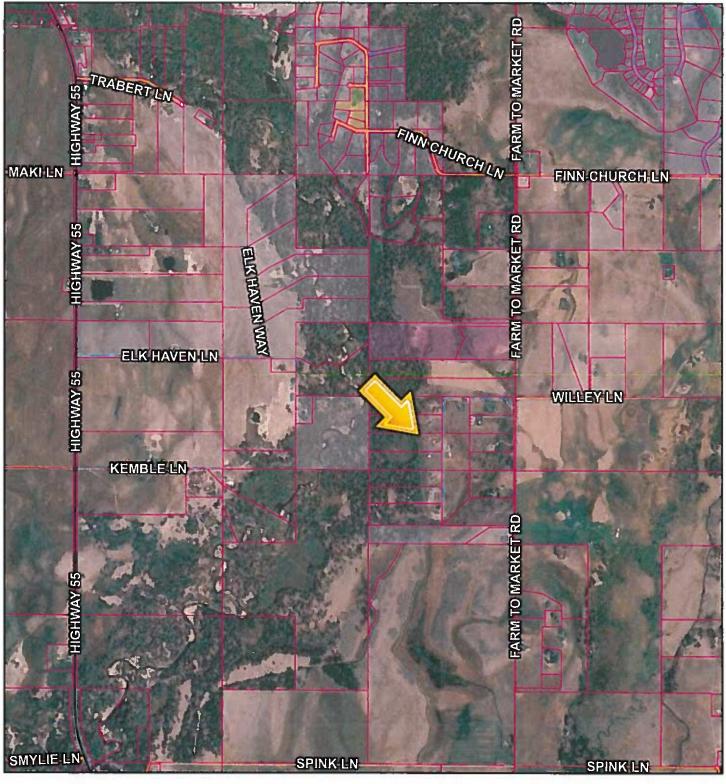
I have attached an agenda. A staff report will be sent to you prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 208-382-7115.

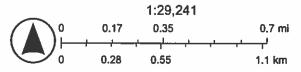
Respectfully,

Lori Hunter Assistant Planner

Detached Solar Panels at 13643 Morris Ranch Road

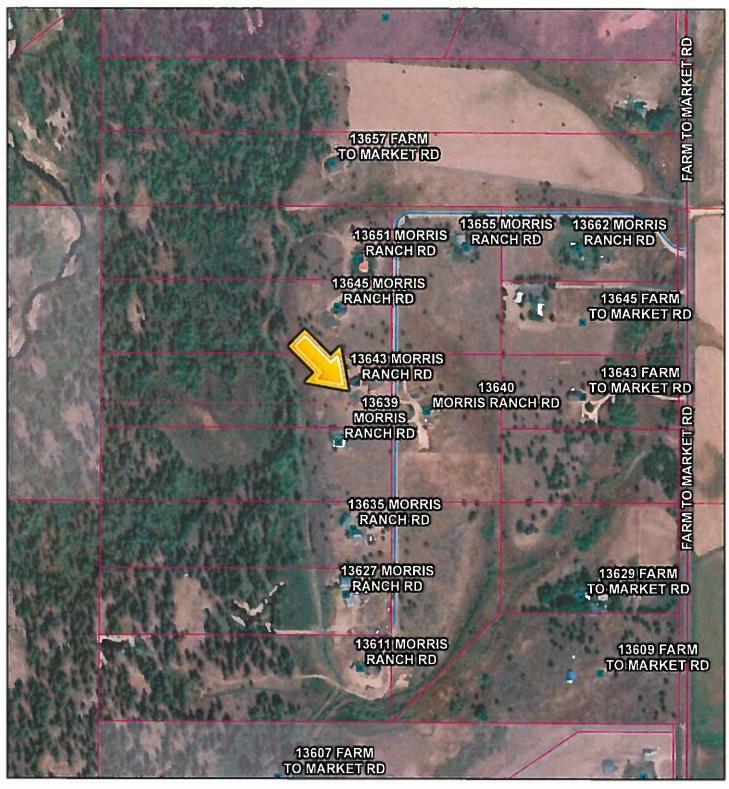


March 16, 2023

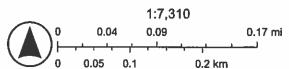


Maxar

Detached Solar Panels at 13643 Morris Ranch Road



March 16, 2023

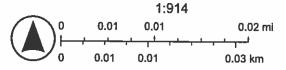


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Detached Solar Panels at 13643 Morris Ranch Road



March 16, 2023



Maxar, Microsoft

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White - Inspector Pink - Applicant Yellow - Assessor

P.O. Box [3] \$50. Cascade, ID 83611 7 2006

White - Inspector

Pink - Applicant

Yellow - Assessor

Valley County, Idaho BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION

(208) 382-7 Fax 382-71.

Cambridge Litho, Inc., 3/04

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9-20-06



Division of Building Safety

1090 E Watertower St. Suite 150 Meridian ID, 83642 1-800-955-3044 phone 1-877-810-2840 fax Applied Date: 10/14/2013

Entered By: ECO

Permit No.: WEB1310-01324

License No.: C:011611

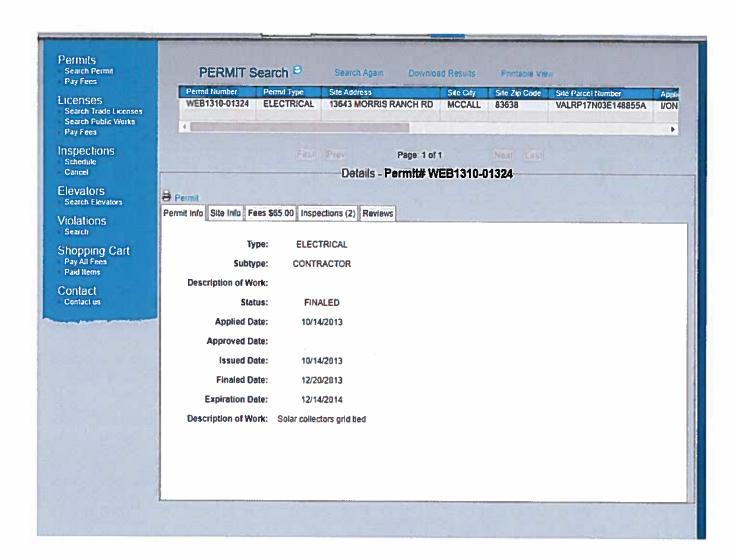
Site Address:	13643 MORRIS RANCH RD	Parcel N	о.	VALRP17N03E148855A
City:	MCCALL	Default I	nspector:	DANIEL SURERUS 986-218-0315
Contractor: I/ON I	ELECTRIC INC	Descript	ion of Work:	
Address: PO Bo MCCA	x 1794 ALL ID 83638	Solar co	llectors grid tie	1
Phone:				
Owner:		Directio	ns to Location:	
Address:				
Phone:				
FEES				
Fee Description ELECTRICAL - EXIS	TING RESIDENTIAL		\$65.00 Description	Paid Date
TOTAL FEES	\$65.00		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
TOTAL FEES PAID	\$65.00			
TOTAL FEES DUE	\$0.00			

This is your ELECTRICAL Permit and Receipt

WEB1310-01324

** Permit Fees are Non-Refundable and Non-Transferable **

EXPIRATION OF PERMITS: This permit will expire one (1) year after the applied date of the permit or one (1) year after the last documented inspection. If your permit has expired and has been expired for less than a year, you may reactivate the permit for an additional year by contacting the Division of Building Safety and paying a reactivation fee



VALLEY COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Parcel Summary and Improvement Report

PO Box 1350 - 219 N Main St, Cascade, ID 83611



Phone (208) 382 - 7126 | assessor@co.valley.id.us

GENERAL PROPERTY SUMMARY

PARCEL ID	RP17N03E148855
OWNER(S)	HEINEY CYNTHIA
	MILLER PETER
SITUS ADDRESS	13643 MORRIS RANCH RD
SITUS CITY, STATE, ZIP	MCCALL, ID 83638
MAILING ATTENTION	
MAILING ADDRESS	13643 MORRIS RANCH RD
MAILING CITY, STATE, ZIP	MCCALL ID 83638
MAILING COUNTRY	



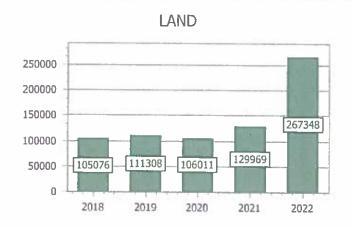
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION & LAND DATA

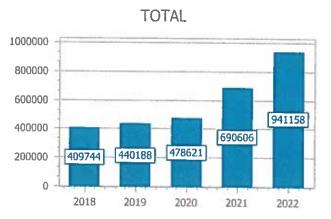
ACREAGE - SQ FT - FRONTAGE	ACRES: 10.095	SQUARE FEET: 439738	FRONTAGE: 0)
LAND DESCRIPTION	Average Market Value	Average (f	Buffer)	
LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS	N/2 S/2 SW4 SE4 (AKA) TAX NO. 12; S14 T17N R3E		
NEIGHBORHOOD	108300 Lakefork Area	Subdivisions		
PLAT LINKS	17N 3E S14 pdf		1000	
CURRENT LAND USES	USE: Average (Buffe	er)	ACRES:	9.004
	Average			1
	Market Value			0.091

SALE DATE	GRANTOR	DEED REFERENCE
6/25/2020	JONES NERIDA G	429577
6/12/2017	JONES JUSTIN ORWELL	406231
3/28/2001	BOWMAN, JOHN D.	253388

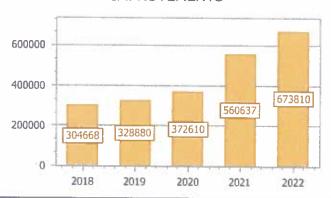
ASSESSMENT HISTORY					
ASSESS DATE CHANGE REASON	1/1/2022 01- Revaluat	<u>01/01/2021</u> 01- Revaluat	<u>01/01/2020</u> 01- Revaluat	<u>01/01/2019</u> 01- Revaluat	<u>1/1/2018</u> 01- Revaluat
LAND	267348	129969	106011	111308	105076
IMPROVEMENTS	673810	560637	372610	328880	304668
TOTAL	941158	690606	478621	440188	409744

ASSESSMENT TRENDS





IMPROVEMENTS



TAX CODE AREAS & DISTRICTS

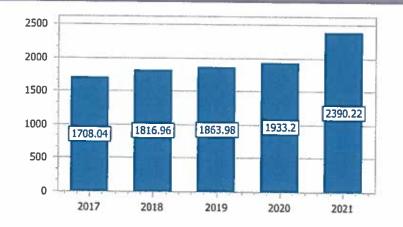
TAX CODE AREA (TAG): 068-0000

CEMETERY	VALLEY CENTER CEMETERY	
FIRE	DONNELLY FIRE PROTECTION	
HOSPITAL	MCCALL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	
SCHOOL	MCCALL-DONNELLY SCH #421	

VOTER PRECINCT	006 - ROSEBERRY
COMMISSIONER DISTRICT	DONNELLY

TOTAL TAX CHARGES

4.2	YEAR	TOTAL CHARGE
	2022	2231.2
	2021	2390.22
1	2020	1933.2
	2019	1863.98
	2018	1816.96



HOMEOWNER'S EXEMPTION?

~	YES

NO

RECORD: R01

TYPE: DWELLING

USE: Single family - Owner

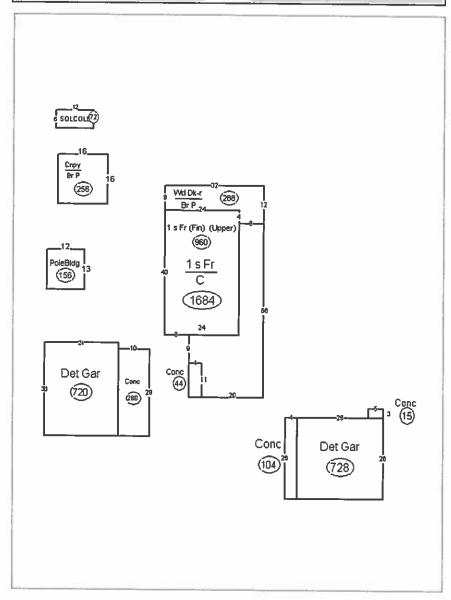
BUILDING DESCRIPTION

YEAR BUILT	2001
STORIES	2
FOUNDATION	Full Crawl
STRUCTURE	Wood frame w/sheathing
EXTERIOR 1	Wood siding
EXTERIOR 2	Metal baked enamel finish
ROOF STYLE	Gable
ROOF COVER	Enamel steel
BEDROOMS	3
FULL BATHS	2
1/2 BATHS	0
HEATING TYPE	Wall units-elec
CENTRAL AIR	N
ATTIC TYPE	None
FIREPLACES	Y

BUILDING DIMENSIONS (SQ FT)

TOTAL SIZE	2644
ATTIC FIN	0
BASEMENT	0
BASEMENT FIN	0
LOWER	0
LOWER FIN	0
ATTACHED GARAGE	
DETACHED GARAGE	1208
ATTACHED CARPORT	
BSMNT/LL GARAGE	
ENCLOSED PORCH	0
OPEN PORCH	0
WOOD DECK	288

SKETCH



OUT BUILDING & YARD ITEMS

Residential Detached Garage BRP Solar (RES) Collection Units

Residential Detached Garage

IMAGES















9-5H-12: APPEALS:

Any administrative level or commission level decision may be appealed in accordance with the procedures established herein. All such appeals must be written, accompanied by the fee as set by resolution of the board of commissioners and submitted to the administrator prior to the deadlines set forth herein. If the appeal deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the appeal period is automatically extended to the next workday. Each appeal must clearly state the name, address and phone number of the person or organization appealing and the specific issues, items or conditions that are being appealed and state the nature of his or their interest and extent of damages.

- A. Appeals Of Administrative Decisions: Any action of the administrator on a specific administrative level application or on the general interpretation of this title may be appealed as follows:
- 1. Interpretation Of Title: Decisions of the administrator or staff may be appealed to the planning and zoning commission within ten (10) days from the date of such decision by any person aggrieved by such decision. Upon receipt of the appeal, the administrator or staff shall schedule the appeal before the commission at the next public meeting following the appeal.
- 2. Administrator Or Staff Design Review Decisions: Decisions of the administrator on design review decisions may be appealed to the commission within ten (10) calendar days from the date of such decision by any person aggrieved by such decision. Upon receipt of such appeal, the administrator or staff shall schedule the appeal before the commission at the next public meeting following the appeal.
- 3. Other Administrative Level Applications: Actions of the administrator on administrative level applications, other than design review, may be appealed to the commission within ten (10) calendar days from the date of the action by the applicant or any aggrieved person. Upon acceptance of the appeal, the administrator shall establish completeness of the appeal and shall notify the appealing party, the applicant, all property owners within three hundred feet (300') of the property, and the public. The commission, in reviewing the administrator's decision, may impose additional or different conditions and limitations.
 - B. Appeals Of Commission Decisions:
- 1. Any decision of the commission may be appealed to the board by the applicant, any aggrieved person or the administrator. The appeal shall be filed with the administrator before five o'clock (5:00) P.M. of the tenth calendar day after the determination of the commission has been made.
- 2. The administrator shall ascertain that the procedural requirements have been met and notify the board of the appeal.
- 3. The clerk, upon notice of an appeal of a decision by the commission, shall set the item on the agenda of the board at the earliest possible regular meeting of the board.
- 4. Notice of the public hearing shall be posted in accordance with subsection A3 of this section.
 - 5. An appeal may not be withdrawn without the approval of the board.
- 6. All pertinent information in the planning and zoning file shall be forwarded to the board for review.
- 7. The board shall hold a public hearing to review the commission's proceedings and decisions and may obtain additional information from the administrator or staff, the applicant, the appellant, or the public.
- 8. The board may sustain, deny, amend or modify the decision of the commission. The decision of the board is final and need not be referred back to the commission; except, the board may elect to refer the matter to the commission with specific instructions. (Ord. 10-06, 8-23-2010)