

This is a printer friendly version of an article from [www.wenatcheeworld.com](http://www.wenatcheeworld.com)  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

---

Article published Feb 20, 2008

## **PUD may sell Chelan property to city Downtown plot could become a parking garage**

By [K.C. Mehaffey](#)  
World staff writer

CHELAN — The Chelan County PUD is deciding whether to sell a prime piece of property in downtown Chelan, and if it does, the city hopes to buy it.

The property on the corner of Johnson Avenue and Columbia Street includes Chelan's visitor center, which is leased by the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, and a public parking lot maintained by the PUD and patrolled by the city.

The 0.68-acre parcel is just north of Campbell's Resort, one block from Lake Chelan.

Kris Pomianek, the PUD's recreation resource manager, said the utility won't be selling the land until the chamber's lease expires in three years.

"We are just in the beginning stages of evaluating what we will do when the lease comes up for renewal in 2011. We did think of possibly selling the property," she said. So utility employees met with city and chamber officials to find out if they had an interest in buying the land.

Mayor Bob Goedde said the Chelan City Council on Thursday night expressed interest in pursuing a purchase. Goedde said city staff will work with the PUD to determine a reasonable price and figure out how the city might pay for it.

The PUD can sell the property at less than fair-market value if it sells to a government entity, such as the city of Chelan, said Goedde. He also said the PUD can sell directly to the city because both are public entities, so the public would continue to own the land.

"We don't really know how that will all play out," Pomianek said, adding, "It's an easier situation, going from government to government."

Goedde and Pomianek both said the property has not been appraised, and they have not discussed a purchase price. Goedde said if the city does buy the land, the chamber would probably continue to use the building as a visitor center.

The city may consider turning the parking lot into a parking garage, he said.

"We do have a parking problem in Chelan, and this might help alleviate that," Goedde said.

Pomianek said the PUD bought the property in the 1950s, intending to build the utility's Chelan offices there. But in 1972, it purchased land on Woodin Avenue, the current site of the Chelan office and crew headquarters.

In 1988, the utility started leasing the building to the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, and as part of the agreement the chamber sold tickets for rides on the Lady of the Lake boat, which was docking at the PUD dock below Campbell's Resort.

Pomianek said the boat company no longer docks there, so the PUD no longer needs to sell the tickets. The boat now uses its own docks.

K.C. Mehaffey: 997-2512

[mehaffeywenworld.com](http://mehaffeywenworld.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

PHOTO NOT SHOWN: Kris Pomianek

---