

Schroader, Kathy



From: Michael Benson <michaelbenson972@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 11:29 AM
To: Cnty 2016 Comp Plan
Subject: Comp plan comments

I am requesting that this be part of the public record, as submitted within the public comment period for the Comprehensive Plan Update:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Michael Benson and my wife and I are board members of Friends of Clark County (FOCC.) We decided to join FOCC as we strongly support ALT 1 for the comprehensive plan update and adamantly oppose ALT 4. We recently purchased 5 acres of rural property in La Center WA with hopes of farming and purchasing some livestock. Like many of our friends and neighbors, our water does not come from a public source but from a private well. Due to a very limited supply of well water, we have to be very selective with farming practices and must rely on crops that require little or no irrigation. I am assuming by Mr. Madore's proposal of ALT 4 that he has little or no understanding of what this means at all. Our water is not an unlimited source. In fact, while we are very conservative with use, we ran out of water multiple time last summer and even in the fall. When this happens we have no drinking water, no ability to take showers or wash clothes or even simply flush a toilet. We purchased holding tanks to store water this year at a cost of over \$4,000 just to ensure our family had the basic resources needed to live. Our neighbors directly to the north of our property, who have owned there land for decades, also ran dry this year. There are multiple small farms that we know of in our community that have faced the same issues. This problem is not just going to go away, in fact, all evidence suggests that it is getting worse. Dividing lots, breaking up farmland and building beyond what the current infrastructure can manage will only further deplete the water supply in Clark County. Does this sound like a reasonable option? Is it what the small farmers whose livelihood is on the line would choose? Does Mr. Madore intend to inform the public that his push for unsustainable development from ALT 4 will come without the basic needs to live? Water is a necessity, not a subsidy that a local official can just decide to sell off to special interest until it is depleted. If ALT 4 where to pass, what is the contingency plan once all of the farms, existing tax payers homes and new developments run out of water? The DSEIS does not account for this at all. I can assure you that I, my neighbors and the citizens of Clark County will be looking at ONE person for answers.

Please make the right choice for the citizens of Clark County. Do not take away our natural resources needed to survive. Choose what is best for whole, not for special interest. Choose ALT 1.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding,

Michael Benson
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