

Schroader, Kathy



From: Tilton, Rebecca
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 8:51 AM
To: Boldt, Marc, Madore, David; Mielke, Tom, Olson, Julie (Councilor), Stewart, Jeanne, Orjako, Oliver, Schroader, Kathy
Subject: FW comments for 2 16.15 hearing on reconsideration of Growth Plan
Attachments: Feb 16 2016 doc

Good morning,

Attached are more comments for this morning's hearing

Thanks,
Rebecca

From: Sue Marshall [<mailto:suemarshall5@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 8:04 AM
To: Tilton, Rebecca
Subject: comments for 2.16.15 hearing on reconsideration of Growth Plan

Rebecca,

Attached for the record please find a copy of my comments for the hearing today

Thanks you

Sue

Feb 16, 2016

Clark County Council
PO Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666

**Re: Reconsider of the "preferred alternative"
Support for Planning Commission Recommendation**

Dear Chair Boldt and Council Members

My name is Sue Marshall. We have a 20 acre family farm in the Ridgefield area. With our daughter, we are beginning a third generation of farming our land. The current zoning of our farm is AG- 20 and we would like to retain that designation as a means of protecting the long term use of our land as an agricultural resource to the community and as a family legacy. Alt 4 and 4B would upzone our land to AG-10.

I urge you to adopt the Planning Commission's recommendation that was passed twice after very thoughtful deliberation and is the option that is most protective of resource lands.

The reality is that we are simply out of time to continue down the path of Alt 4B whose assumptions have largely been deemed invalid by the Thorpe analysis.

There remains an active farming economy in Clark County. Further parcelization of the rural landscape threatens the long term viability of agriculture on some of the best soils in the state. According to USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *2012 Census of Agriculture Washington State and County Data* - **Income from farm-related sources is up sharply in Clark County, increasing from \$4.2 million in 2007 to \$5.98 million in 2012 - an increase of 41 percent.**

Why larger acreage farms are important in Clark County

- The per acre cost of farmland goes up with smaller acreages making farmland prohibitively expensive
- Large blocks of land dedicated to farming provide more long term stability, sustainability and resilience for agriculture and protects a farmers' long term investments in equipment and crops.

- Large block farming can support necessary infrastructure – shared storage, equipment, processing, marketing etc. There is an important economic cluster of supporting jobs that occurs with larger scale farming
- Dry land farming is a fact of life and definitely feasible in Clark County but it requires larger acreage to be economically feasible with a more limited variety of crops. As new water rights are not available it behooves us to preserve the remaining large acreage farms for diversity of crops and the future resiliency of food production in the county

Problems Identified in DSEIA with Alt. 2, Alt. 4 and presumably Alt. 4B

- Population assumptions do not support Alt. 2 and 4 and creates more housing than is needed.
- Development occurs disproportionately in the rural areas
- These alternatives are a PERSCRIPTION FOR SPRAWL
- An addition of 8,220 wells and septic systems (Alt 2) and 12,400 for Alt 4 plus needed infrastructure will have a cumulative impact that we cannot afford environmentally or economically and will change the character of rural Clark County.

Please move this process forward without further delay by concurring with the Planning Commissions Recommendation today

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,



Sue Marshall
Co-owner and Operator of Baur's Corner Farm
4316 NW 169th Street
Ridgefield, WA 98642