



VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Statement to the County Council on the Update of the County Growth Management Plan February 16, 2016

My name is Gretchen Starke and, as conservation chair, I am speaking on behalf of the Vancouver Audubon Society. As a resident of Clark County for the past 48 years and as one who cares about this place, I am also speaking for myself.

Audubon's focus is birds and protection of their habitat. Thus, we are concerned about the growth management plan and the integrity of habitat for birds and other wildlife, including fish and invertebrates.

Wildlife is a public resource that is important and necessary for quality of life. Whether hunted or fished or simply viewed, people enjoy having wildlife nearby. The alternative that the county chooses should impact wildlife as little as possible. The alternative that meets this criterion is Alternative 1. In contrast, from a wildlife conservation point of view, the worst alternative is Alternative 4.

In general, subdivisions, even five acre subdivisions, are bad for birds. We know that there will be growth and more development. Such growth should be close in and compact. It should not contribute to urban sprawl. Alternative 4 promotes urban sprawl. Such sprawl has a devastating effect on wildlife habitat.

The roads the new development would need would impair habitat far more than the acreage required for the actual subdivision. The negative effect of a road extends beyond the edge of the road. An example is the effect of a road through a forest on warblers.

Warblers nest deep in the woods. To a warbler, a 100-acre forest with a road going through is actually two 50-acre forests. Warblers are subject to nest parasitism by cowbirds. Cowbirds lay their eggs in the nests of warblers, leaving the warbler to hatch the egg and rear the young cowbird at the expense of the warblers own young. Cowbirds don't like to go deep into the forest. But if the woods are broken up with roads, this allows the cowbirds to gain access to the warblers' nests.

This is just one example of how Alternative 4 would adversely affect birds and other wildlife. Others this morning have, or will, testify about the deleterious effect of Alternative 4 would have on other resources and areas of life -- water, traffic congestion, schools. To serve the new developments sprawled out into the country, county residents will have to pay for that which they may not want.

For all these reasons, the Vancouver Audubon Society supports having the county council selecting Alternative 1 as the preferred alternative.

We urge that the councilors keep in mind all the problems the new development would cause and choose the alternative that will have the least adverse effects. That alternative is Alternative 1. Thank you.

Schroader, Kathy

From: Tilton, Rebecca
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:59 AM
To: Orjiako, Oliver, Schroader, Kathy
Subject: Comp Plan Comments
Attachments: Sydney Reisbick_02-16-16 Comp Plan Comments pdf, Levanen_Carol_021616CompPlanComments pdf, Hammon_021616CompPlanComments pdf, West_Thomas_021616CompPlanComments pdf, Eustis_021616CompPlanComments pdf, Koktas_021616CompPlanComments pdf, Kokta, Theresa_021616CompPlanComments pdf, Jensen_Lee_021616CompPlanComments pdf, Zavanelli-Morgan_Barbara_021616CompPlanComments pdf, Morgan_James_021616CompPlanComments pdf, Ek_Nathan_021616CompPlanComments pdf, Light_Megan_021616CompPlanComments pdf, Boynton_Steve_021616CompPlanComments pdf, Levanen_Carol_022316CompPlanComments pdf

Hello,

For your records, please see the attached written testimony received on Feb. 16; Feb 18, & Feb 23, 2016

Thank you!
Rebecca

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