January 17, 2014

Board of Clark County Commissioners  
1300 Franklin, 6th Floor  
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000

SUBJECT: City of Vancouver Comments on County Population Forecast and Public Process

Honorable Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on these regionally important decisions which we understand are before you on January 21. On behalf of the City of Vancouver, the following comments are respectfully offered for your consideration:

Public Participation Plan
We support the County staff’s recommended participation plan outlined in the December 18 worksession materials. To the extent the plan also covers inter-jurisdictional participation we would note that there is an existing Vancouver-Clark County interlocal agreement which includes provisions relevant to the update process.

Countywide Population Forecast
We support the County staff recommendation to adopt OFM’s medium forecast of 562,207 persons countywide by 2035. OFM projects the medium forecast as most likely to occur, and at the December 18 worksession the other cities’ staff supported the medium forecast number. Adopting a higher forecast would likely require significant residential expansions of the Vancouver UGA and others, reducing the ratio of jobs to housing in the region, and placing additional long term demands on capital facilities plans, and the economy.

We received notice of the hearing just this week, so have not had an opportunity to engage City Council members but anticipate doing so soon once update timelines are established.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Chad Eiken, AICP, Director  
Community and Economic Development Department

Cc: Oliver Orjiako, Director, Clark County Community Planning
January 21, 2014

Clark Board of County Commissioners  
P.O. Box 9810,  
1300 Franklin Street,  
Vancouver, WA 98660-9810

Re: Comprehensive Plan – County-wide Population Forecast

Dear Commissioners;

On behalf of the City of La Center, I understand that in 2014 Clark County and the local jurisdictions within the County will begin working in earnest on the update of their respective comprehensive plans. The City of La Center will work in concert with the County as the process unfolds.

We understand that the first step in the process is an adoption of a county-wide population projection. Like all other jurisdictions in Clark County we are beginning to climb slowly, but steadily, out of the recent housing recession.

Given the recent experience of growth, recession, and initial rebound, it is the consensus within our community that the County should adopt a medium range OFM population forecast. The medium range forecast is consistent with our own 20-year planning goals and policies.

We look forward to working with the County during the update process as we all address issues, such as land and opportunities for employment growth, that are important to our individual and collective future.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

James T. Irish, Mayor  
City of La Center

Cc: File
January 21, 2014

Clark County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 9810
1300 Franklin Street
Vancouver, WA 98660-9810

Re: Clark County Comprehensive Plan – Population Forecast

Dear Commissioners,

In 2014, the City of Ridgefield, in concert with Clark County, will initiate the process to update its Comprehensive Plan. Like other local jurisdictions, Ridgefield experienced a sharp decline in new home starts during the recent recession. Fortunately, we are now experiencing a steady rebound in the housing industry and growth in population.

Although the City Council has not conducted formal work sessions or public hearings on the matter, the Council has given its support to using the County-wide, medium population forecast released by the Office of Financial Management as the appropriate 20-year anticipated population growth rate. A moderate upward population forecast is consistent with our long-term land use planning aspirations.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
The City of Ridgefield

[Signature]

Lee Knottnerus
Acting City Manager

Cc: Ridgefield City Council
Clark County Population

y = 7335.1x + 60182

2035 = 595,644.3 population

- Clark County
- 50 Year Average Growth Rate