

O'Donnell, Mary Beth

From: Orjiako, Oliver
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 2:42 PM
To: Euler, Gordon; Alvarez, Jose; O'Donnell, Mary Beth
Cc: Cook, Christine
Subject: FW: Letters to councilors regarding Alt. 4 for public record.
Attachments: Madore alternative 4.doc; Mielke alternative 4.doc; Stewart alternative 4.doc



OP16#0601

A letter to the Councilors from the Chair of the Clark County Food System Council for our record and index. Thanks.

Oliver

From: Food System Council Member [<mailto:council@clarkfoodsystem.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 2:19 PM
To: Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Letters to councilors regarding Alt. 4 for public record.

I sent this letter to the three councilors on behalf of the Clark County Food System Council. It's the same except for the name. I've attached all three that I sent.

Thank you for all that you and your department do.

Garrett Hoyt, Chair
Clark County Food System Council



April 1, 2015

Councilor David Madore
Board of Clark County Councilors

Councilor Madore:

The Clark County Food System Council is a diverse citizen group working to increase and preserve access to safe, local and healthy food for all residents of Clark County. The multi-stakeholder Council supports a viable, economical and sustainable local food system through multiple strategies including:

- Strengthening the connections between food, health, natural resource protection, economic development and the agricultural community.
- Researching, analyzing and reporting on information about the local food system.
- Advocating for and advising on food system and food policy implementation.
- Promoting and providing education on food system issues.

The Clark County Food System Council opposes the inclusion of Alternative Four in the Comprehensive Plan Update and the associated environmental review process because additional parcel downsizing runs counter to our mission. Alternative Four would negatively impact the county's ability to grow food and use rural, natural resource, and other feasible agricultural land for food production.

We oppose Alternative Four because it would decrease agricultural production capacity and impinge on current and future farm viability. Parcelization reduces the profitability of agricultural operations in many ways.

Here are examples:

1. Farms require contiguous acres for expansion, consolidation of parcels, or entry of new owners seeking to start or restart a commercial farm business.
2. Parcelization increases the conflicts between farmers and their new suburban, exurban, residential and/or recreational neighbors.
3. The addition of smaller parcels amid actively farmed parcels could increase such conflicts and "right to farm" provisions.
4. Smaller lot sizes drive up land values, as well as (cost per acre), making it more challenging to have a farm income adequate to pay for the land.
5. Water availability is already a barrier to farming in Clark County. Increased numbers of wells increase the burden on the fresh water supply, which is crucial for farmers.

We welcome the opportunity to further discuss Alternative 4 with you. Please feel free to contact us at hello@clarkfoodsystem.com.

Sincerely,

Garrett Hoyt, Chair
Clark County Food System Council



April 1, 2015

Councilor Tom Mielke
Board of Clark County Councilors

Councilor Mielke:

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Sincerely,

Garrett Hoyt, Chair
Clark County Food System Council

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April 1, 2015

Councilor Jeanne E. Stewart
Board of Clark County Councilors

Councilor Stewart:

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