Councilors move forward with Growth Management updates

Controversial Alternative 4 moves on to SEPA process along with other three proposals

ANNIKA DARLING for The Reflector

After a nearly six-hour, public hearing on April 14, the Clark County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Alternative 4 to be the next phase of the Growth Management Plan, which would be reviewed by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) group. The three previously proposed alternatives to the county's Growth Management Plan are displayed here at the meeting, move on to an environmental review phase.

CLARK COUNTY COUNCILORS Joanne Stewart (left), Dave Madore (center) and Tom Mielke (right) listened to over 200 public comments during the April 14 meeting. The councils proposed to add Alternative 5 to the proposals for updates to the county's Growth Management Plan.
Alternative 4
Continued from page A1

creek. Tischbein objected to Alternative 4, saying, "Alternative 4 is bad for the quality of life and the quality of democracy in Clark County. It undermines the protections in the GMA against the inherent degradations of urban and suburban sprawl."

She further commented that Alternative 4 would drive up the cost of land and thus farming for local food production.

A representative from Slough Foods, Warren Neds, also spoke at the hearing expressing concerns associated with effects the Alternative would have on rural landowners, in the same way that it affects mid-sized producers.

"Alternative 4, in my view," says Neds, "is really opening the floodgates to development in our rural lands. By creating the R1 and R2.5, which is a blanket upzone in our rural areas, it puts market pressure on the larger parcels of land that mid-sized farmers need."

Clark County Citizens United (CCCU), a nonprofit group that pushed for Alternative 4, spoke with The Reflector in March, at which point Susan Rasmussen, a La Center resident and member of CCCU, commented: "These lands have been ignored for 20 years. The style of farming has drastically changed. We have vibrant 4-H, and equestrian communities. We have avid gardeners, active retirees, and multi-generations living together. All require 1-, 2.5- and 5-acre parcels. Rural lands deserve better attention."

For those residents concerned with the implications of the decision to move forward with Alternative 4, Teddy Euler, program manager with Clark County Community Planning, assures that this is only a minor decision in a much larger process.

"The decision that was made today provides the counselors with information to make a decision," Euler said. "The whole point about today was just to get Alternative 4 decided on so we could resume the environmental review process. Nothing has been decided upon, except to go study Alternative 4."

Alternative 4 was added in January in response to rural landowners who expressed interest in added flexibility to their land. What Alternative 4 suggests is that Forest zones move to 10- and 20-acre minimum lots (currently, they are at 40), eliminate the existing 10- and 20-acre minimum in Rural zones, moving them to 1- and 2.5-acre minimum lots, and in Agricultural zones changing the minimum parcel size from 40 acres to 10 and 20 acres.

Clark County residents will have another chance to voice their opinions once the SEPA process is complete and a supplementary document is presented, estimated to take place by late summer.

Upon presentation of the supplementary statement, there will be a 45-day window for comments, concerns, and opinions to be voiced by the public. A formal hearing will follow.

"At that time, Euler says a preferred plan will be decided upon, which in all likelihood will be a combination of all the Alternatives."

Dairy
Continued from page A1

with the expiration dates of April 16 through April 21 were voluntarily recalled by Rodriguez and her husband. The milk was sold in half gallon and gallon plastic containers, and the cream was sold in pint and quart plastic containers. Rodriguez said the possible listeria contamination was only found in the cream, not in the milk.

Rodriguez said they were able to act quickly when they were told about the possible contamination and recalled all of the milk and cream with those expiration dates. Out of 112 gallons with those dates, she said they were able to recover 102 gallons. There are currently no instances of anyone getting sick who drank milk or cream from the dairy.

Recalled raw milk and cream was sold in Amboy, Battle Ground, Camas, Vancouver and Yacolt.

Currently, Spanish Sunset Dairy is home to about 30 head of dairy cows. Rodriguez said they do have a potential buyer in Oregon who is considering buying the cows and would continue to use them to produce milk.

Rodriguez said both she and her husband are sad to sell the dairy.

"We're both sad because we put a lot into it, with the dairy itself and the babies (cows)," Rodriguez said. "We've done really well with what we've had and we're sad to see it go, but it's a new chapter in our life."

Consumers with any questions about the recall can call Rodriguez at (360) 931-7283 between the hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Kim
Continued from page A1

job performance and enhance delivery of county services and information to the public.

"I am thrilled that Sam is joining our high-performing management team," McCau-