

**Schroader, Kathy**

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**From:** Orjiako, Oliver  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 03, 2015 8:18 AM  
**To:** Euler, Gordon; Alvarez, Jose  
**Cc:** Schroader, Kathy  
**Subject:** FW: The GMA is every bit concerned with rural as it is urban growth

FYI, and Kathy for the index. More is coming. Thanks.

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**From:** Carol Levanen [<mailto:cnldental@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 02, 2015 11:20 PM  
**To:** Stewart, Jeanne; Mielke, Tom; Madore, David; Orjiako, Oliver  
**Subject:** Fw: The GMA is every bit concerned with rural as it is urban growth

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** susan rasmussen <[sprazz@outlook.com](mailto:sprazz@outlook.com)>  
**To:** susan rasmussen <[sprazz@outlook.com](mailto:sprazz@outlook.com)>; Carol Levanen <[cnldental@yahoo.com](mailto:cnldental@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 1, 2015 8:26 AM  
**Subject:** Re: The GMA is every bit concerned with rural as it is urban growth

GMA encourages counties to influence the greatest population growth into UGA's, its policies and provisions also reflect the strong desires of Washington citizens to maintain historical, and viable rural lifestyles. This goal isn't stated in language, but explicitly recognized in several Court and Board decisions. The unstated GMA goal is clearly expressed in the many provisions in the GMA that speak to distinguishing urban living from rural lifestyles. For example, the Act's definition of "urban growth," as "growth that makes intensive use of the land for the location of buildings, structures, and impermeable surfaces." "Rural character", stresses the cultural dimensions of "ruralism." 36.70A.030(14) defines rural character as "patterns of land use and development that foster traditional rural lifestyles and provide visual landscapes that are traditionally found in rural areas and communities. The only stipulation in the act on rural growth is that it can not be "urban in nature."

The GMA's overall treatment of the rural areas recognizes the more traditional concept of living, and supports a citizen's ability to rightfully decide to live in a rural setting. This reflects an overall lifestyle choice, not merely a geographical preference for housing.

The fact that large numbers of Clark County residents have historically resided outside of incorporated city limits further suggests that many citizens may theoretically oppose high density, urban lifestyles. The historic rural growth patterns of Clark County are based in reality. The patterns are a result of generations of cultural practices. Amazingly, these growth patterns haven't ever been considered important enough to recognize and accomodate in any comprehensive plan update. GMA recognizes the patterns of development as the unique "rural character." On remand in our court action, the county was ordered to amend its comprehensive plan by making reasoned zoning considering existing conditions.

Partly as a result of our court actions, local governments are able to designate rural areas that are capable of accommodating however many people they choose...just as long as the development is

reflective of the area's rural character. The court decision represents the continuity of rural values, culture, and lifestyles.

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**From:** susan rasmussen'

**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2015 1:49 PM

**To:** Carol Levanen

steep slopes

MapsOnline, Clark County WA. GIS. can

<http://gis.clark.wa.gov/mapsonline/?site=GeoHazards&ext=1>

Sent from Windows Mail