From: Carol Levanen [mailto:cnidental@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2015 3:00 PM
To: Stewart, Jeanne; Mielke, Tom; Madore, David
Subject: The Health Department and the Comprehensive Plan - For the Public Record

Dear Councilors,

It is with grave concern that Clark County Citizens United, Inc has discovered many hidden policies for preventing rural and resource land division, in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This is being done under the guise of “healthy living” and with the blessing of the Clark County Health Department. There are 13 goals in the Growth Management Act, and even with the addition of Goal 14, there is no mention of regulating land use, using this method. Clark County’s obligation to the citizens of the county and the GMA, is to follow the mandates of the RCWs and the law. In WAC 365-190-050, Agricultural resource lands (4) it states, “When designating agricultural resource lands, counties and cities may consider food security issues”, but “may” is certainly not considered a mandate. No where in the GMA or the WAC does it mention preventing land divisions in the rural and resource lands as the way to “consider food security issues”. The public is not aware of the ramifications of using this minor suggestion in the WAC to push a no growth agenda in unincorporated areas, via the Comprehensive Plan. Much of this work to produce all of the many “health” documents was done behind the scenes without meaningful input from those who are most impacted by the incorporation of such language. All taxpayers pay for the Department of Health activities and they have always believed them to be an independent agency. CCCU is not aware as to when this agency became so involved in land use planning, but thousands of taxpayers dollars have already been spent for such a purpose. Perhaps the councilors should do an audit of where all funding to the health Department is going. CCCU is aware that large sums of money went to the Food Systems Council, who were actually agents for a private organization called Friends of Clark County, which is known for their no growth activities. Another concern is a map that is being circulated for consideration to the Plan, that shows the majority of the county is unsuitable for septic systems. Yet, other maps show the same land as suitable for agriculture and forest land. Since all of them require reasonable drainage, CCCU questions how the maps can be correct. In addition, CCCU would like to know what part the health Department played in the creation of these maps?

It is alarming to think that because the taxpayer might think that healthy living is important, they are not aware that such thoughts are enabling the county to create punitive policies against them and against all rural and resource citizens. The Clark County Health Department needs to separate itself from Clark County Community Planning as soon as possible, and an accounting needs to be made.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Ex Secretary
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