Hello,

The attached written testimony was received from Carol Levanen and Susan Rasmussen during the public comment portion of the 9/29/15 BOC hearing.

Thank you,
Rebecca

Rebecca Tilton, Clerk of the Council
Board of County Councilors
1300 Franklin Street
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Vancouver, WA 98666-5000
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Testimony for the Record regarding Faulty Septic System Map in the 2016 DSEIS and update of the Comprehensive Plan

Dear Councilors,

The 2016 update of the Comprehensive Plan has a map depicting Severe Limitations for Septic Systems in Clark County. There has never been such a map in former Plans, and the 2014 date of the map is certainly suspect. Why was it created and who determined that it should be included in the Plan? This map shows almost all of the land in Clark County as being highly restrictive for septic systems. Yet, maps depicting prime agriculture and forest land, is located in the same areas. Well drained soils are necessary for all three of these activities. A septic system design company who has been in business for approximately 25 years reports that Clark County has a team of experts who are well acquainted with the needs and design standards of septic systems. I am submitting these comments for review. Even more compelling is the fold out map in the NRCS 1972 Soils Manual which shows most of the county, outside the southern urban areas, as being well drained soils. The poorly drained soils are located under the city of Vancouver, Camas, Washougal and in Hazel Dell. This new proposed map is not only alarming as to what it’s impact could be, it is also inaccurate.

Clark County Citizens United, Inc asks that this septic suitability soil map be removed from the proposed maps in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Ex. Secretary
Hello Susan, could you print this out for me, my printer is not working again. thanks!

Clark County Citizens United, Inc.
P.O. Box 2188
Battle Ground, Washington 98604

Attachments are included.

Dear Councilors,

I’m sure you are aware, we have an onsite septic system technical advisory group that meets quarterly to discuss environmental health policy as related to onsite septic. A number of us sit on this group, including Basil Rotschy and Mark Collier, myself and some others. It has been noticed that the draft EIS has nearly the entire county listed as “very limited” for onsite septic systems. I’m not sure where this is derived from, but it is clearly an inaccurate assessment of this county’s soils. We have some of the best lowland soils in the state. Most of the Puget sound has shallow glacial till and hardpan. One of the TAG members that used to work at the health department said that years ago an updated map was provided to the county for septic suitability as part of the ‘94/’95 growth plan update, but that mapping is probably lost. Would it make sense to have a letter from a number of TAG members for the public record regarding soil suitability in this county?

Nathan Ek
Licensed On-Site Septic System Designer
SOIL SURVEY OF

Clark County, Washington

United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
In cooperation with
Washington Agricultural Experiment Station

Issued November 1972
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

GENERAL SOIL MAP
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Scale 1:253,440

SOIL ASSOCIATIONS

SOMETHAT EXCESSIVELY DRAINED TO VERY POORLY DRAINED SOILS OF BOTTOM LANDS AND TERRACES

1. Sauvie-Puyallup association: Deep, nearly level to gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained to somewhat excessively drained, moderately fine textured to moderately coarse textured soils of the flood plains

2. Hillsboro-Gee-Odne association: Deep, dominantly nearly level to sloping, well-drained to poorly drained, medium-textured soils of the terraces

3. Hillsboro-Dollar-Cove association: Deep, dominantly nearly level to sloping, well-drained to very poorly drained, medium-textured soils of the terraces

4. Lauren-Sifton-Wind River association: Somewhat excessively drained, dominantly nearly level to gently sloping, gravelly, medium-textured and moderately coarse textured soils of the terraces

WELL-DRAINED SOILS OF MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS

5. Cimecan-Yacolt association: Deep, dominantly gently sloping to very steep, medium-textured soils of the mountains and valleys

6. Olympic-Kinney association: Deep, dominantly steep and very steep, moderately fine textured to medium-textured soils of the mountains

WELL-DRAINED SOILS OF UPLANDS, MOUNTAIN FOOT SLOPES, AND ASSOCIATED TERRACES

7. Hesson-Ogawa association: Deep, nearly level to steep, moderately fine textured to medium-textured soils of the uplands and terraces

8. Hesson-Olympic association: Deep, nearly level to steep, moderately fine textured soils of the mountain foot slopes and terraces

* Texture in name of association refers to surface layer.
Figure 2-3: Soil Limitations to Septic Sewer Systems