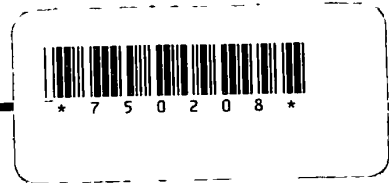


Schroader, Kathy



From: Orjiako, Oliver
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2015 9:54 AM
To: Euler, Gordon, Alvarez, Jose, Anderson, Colete, Albrecht, Gary, Hermen, Matt, Kamp, Jacqueline, Lebowsky, Laurie, Lumbantobing, Sharon
Cc: Schroader, Kathy
Subject: FW: Torture the data to better advance their positions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

FYI and for the record Thanks

From: susan rasmussen [mailto:sprazz@outlook.com]
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2015 8:22 AM
To: Stewart, Jeanne; Mielke, Tom; Madore, David
Cc: Lonnie Moss; Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Fw: Torture the data to better advance their positions

For the public record for the 2016 update of the Comprehensive Plan

Sent from Windows Mail

From: susan_rasmussen
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2015 10:55 AM
To: susan_rasmussen

Sent from Windows Mail

The process of the 2016 update of the county's comprehensive plan allows for multiple opportunities for technicians and the elected officials to adjust the numbers to arrive at the correct result. At the same time, it allows for challenges to the assumptions and decisions to be honed and corrected for accuracy and consistency---per GMA mandates.

The statistics should be subject to expert scrutiny. Some jurisdictions employ outside consultants to second-guess projections of local planning staff...to prove the numbers and facts...to "scrub the data." They have found this to be necessary in the processes of their comprehensive plans because, "***jurisdictions competing for land, jobs, tax revenues, and housing can easily torture the data to better advance their positions.***" (Puget Sound Regional Council) The use of the urban reserve and holding overlays imposed on landowners over 20 years is a prime example of local jurisdictions abusing their powers over the rural communities.

There is a need to check calculations to ensure one jurisdiction does not weave in opportunities to dominate the process at the expense of the others. It may be impractical to examine and verify all data put into the draft SEIS, however, the methodologies used should be scrutinized.

It is quite possible that staff have tried their best to make logical judgments and reasonable assumptions. They have provided supportable numbers for the alternative plans. However, this does not mean that the judgments, assumptions, and numbers cannot be faulted and corrected. It does mean that once exposed and discussed that inaccuracies do exist, there is a responsibility to rise to the occasion and correct the inconsistencies in the data. The work of the BOCC is handicapped, otherwise.

The process demands breathtaking leaps of faith in making 20-year projections and undertaking intricate calculations of population projections, jobs, household sizes, development densities, urban/rural ratios, assumptions, development market behavior, etc. The Buildable Lands Study, as written in the draft SEIS, is eye-opening not because it appears to prove that developable land is plentiful, but because it reveals the process used is fragile. This fragile process also reveals that the foundation underlying most of the findings, is subject to easy manipulation to advance the agendas of a jurisdiction.

It isn't entirely clear if the inaccuracies were intentionally woven into the plan to perpetuate advantages for the cities, and disadvantage the concerns of the rural interests. It is difficult to imagine this complex methodology as accidental.

The planners and the Planning Commission are the researchers, the fact-finding agency. They are highly capable of digging up the numbers, doing the math to arrive at the desired outcome. They undoubtedly did the best they could with the old data in the EIS, and perpetuating old methodologies. But this time around, the County Board of Councilors should insist to improve the methodology and the data. This is the most essential tool in your tool box. Without accuracy, the Board's ability to provide responsible oversight and make wise decisions is greatly handicapped