

Schroader, Kathy



From: Euler, Gordon
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 8:21 AM
To: Wisner, Sonja, Tilton, Rebecca
Cc: Orjiako, Oliver, Schroader, Kathy
Subject: FW: Clark County Food System Council Letter regarding the 2016 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan Update

Sonja/Rebecca

For distribution to the respective bodies. Thanks

Gordy

From: Ann Foster [<mailto:annfoster5093@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 4:53 PM
To: Euler, Gordon; Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Clark County Food System Council: Letter regarding the 2016 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan Update

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board of County Councilors and the Clark County Planning Commission

The Clark County Food System Council is committed to strengthening the local food system and creating access to healthy and safe food, especially for vulnerable populations in our communities. As such, we focus on three areas: improving access to healthy food, land and resource preservation, and community education. Our goal is to create an environment where healthy local food is available in our community. We envision a place where food is grown locally, farmers are compensated fairly and the physical and economic health of the county flourishes. We ask for your help in realizing this vision.

The FSC strongly opposes those policy recommendations in its Comprehensive Growth Management Plan Update, 2016, that remove from existence for all time productive agricultural land in Clark County. Parcel reduction, clustering, rezoning of ag-zoned land – all lead to future development, regardless of how they are couched, threaten this County's ability to produce its own food and the many benefits that go along with local agriculture. Once these properties no longer have the land-use protections that currently exist, they will be developed and their potential for food production greatly decreased. The development of these communities will irreversibly tax aquifers, waterways and natural space for wildlife to an extent that would be devastating to both the environment and the rural character that currently exists. This County is losing its agricultural capabilities, all to benefit those few who see no value in supporting productive land.

The Food System Council continues to support those recommendations to the 2016 Plan Update that apply to the sustainability of food production and our responsibility as a community to conserve those resources that fill the basic human need of food (Chapter 4).

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We continue to contribute to policy actions that strengthen and revitalize the vision of producing healthy food locally and a sustainable agriculture economy. We look forward to participating in those conversations with its many community partners in which the physical and economic health of the County and its ag businesses are productively addressed.

Regards,

Garrett Hoyt, Chair

Ann Foster, Secretary