

**From:** [Rebecca Messinger](#) on behalf of [publiccomment](#)  
**To:** [Sonja Wiser](#); [Jacqui Kamp](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Alliance for Community Engagement letter supporting "MIDDLE" population projection  
**Date:** Monday, April 17, 2023 10:50:25 AM  
**Attachments:** [ACE Itr Supporting Middle Population Forecast.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Hello,

I don't know if you received the attached comments or not...just want to make sure.



**Rebecca Messinger**  
Clerk to the Council  
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

564-397-4305



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**From:** Heidi Cody <hcodystudio@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 7, 2023 10:06 AM  
**To:** Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Gary Medvigy <Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Karen Bowerman <Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>  
**Cc:** Rebecca Messinger <Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov>; Cathryn Chudy <chudyca@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Alliance for Community Engagement letter supporting "MIDDLE" population projection

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Good morning Clark County Council,

I am a Co-Director of Alliance for Community Engagement SWWA (ACE), and am cc'ing ACE's Co-Director Cathryn Chudy. ACE is a coalition of 14 environmental and social justice organizations that advocates for climate and resiliency policy in SWWA.

We are attaching a letter from ACE to the Clark County Planning Commission, that we submitted as public comment for yesterday's PC workshop on population projections. ACE is interested in finding common ground with Clark County Council, and seeing how we can work together.

We look forward to future discussions with you. Have a wonderful weekend.

Thank you,  
Heidi Cody and Cathryn Chudy

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Co-Director | Alliance for Community Engagement SWWA

April 6, 2023

Alliance for Community Engagement SWWA (ACE)

Clark County Planning Commission

Dear Clark County Planning Commission:

Alliance for Community Engagement SWWA (ACE) is a coalition of environmental and social justice organizations who advocate for climate and resiliency policy in Clark County. ACE supports Clark County adopting the “MIDDLE” population projection of 698,416, as estimated by the Office of Financial Management on December 20, 2022. In accordance with RCW 43.62.035, the Middle range represents OFM’s estimate of the county’s most likely population.<sup>1</sup>

ACE is concerned with the resiliency of Clark County communities in the face of climate impacts. Clark County faces challenges including air pollution; affordable housing; disproportionate health impacts for already overburdened community members; protection of farmland and local food systems; increased flooding, droughts, and heat waves along with wildfire risks; decreased stream volumes and water supply; loss of open spaces; harmful over-development; lack of multi-modal transportation; and traffic congestion.

According to the Clark County Community Planning Staff report dated 4/18/2023, Urban Growth Areas (UGAs)

“are sized in accordance with the adopted population forecast, choosing a forecast that significantly underestimates population growth can lead to UGAs that are too small, a shortage of developable land and upward pressure on housing and land prices. Alternatively, the GMA requires local governments to develop detailed funding plans for urban services, selecting a range that is too high can result in excessive and wasteful infrastructure spending.”

ACE believes it makes sense to follow OFM’s lead on this and adopt the “MIDDLE” population projection. This realistic estimate will help conserve resources and contain sprawl. It will also protect the general health, safety, and well-being of Clark County communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Alliance for Community Engagement

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<sup>1</sup><https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-forecasts-and-projections/growth-management-act-county-projections>

CC: Clark County Council, Oliver Orjiako