

From: [Rebecca Messinger](#)
To: [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Jacqui Kamp](#); [Sonja Wiser](#)
Subject: FW: ACE-FOCC letter to Clark County Council supporting OFM data and MID-RANGE population projection
Date: Monday, May 1, 2023 1:01:30 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[5.1.23 ACE-FOCC letter to County Council.pdf](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Please see the attached comments. Thank you.



Rebecca Messinger
Clerk to the Council
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

564-397-4305



From: Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 12:58 PM
To: Rebecca Messinger <Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: FW: ACE-FOCC letter to Clark County Council supporting OFM data and MID-RANGE population projection

Rebecca,

Could you make sure this get put on the record?

Thanks.

Sue



Sue Marshall
Clark County County Councilor
District 5
564-397-4878 office

360-904-9832 cell

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From: Heidi Cody <heidi@waconservationaction.org>
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 10:54 AM
To: Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Gary Medvigy <Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov>; Karen Bowerman <Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; oliver.orjiakp@clark.wa.gov
Cc: annfoster2093@gmail.com; hctischbein@gmail.com; Cathryn Chudy <chudyca@gmail.com>; Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com>; Alona Steinke <alonakotkasteinke@hotmail.com>; Kat Holmes <kat@waconservationaction.org>; Rebecca Ponzio <rebecca@waconservationaction.org>
Subject: ACE-FOCC letter to Clark County Council supporting OFM data and MID-RANGE population projection

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Good morning Clark County Council and Staff,

Alliance for Community Engagement SW WA (ACE) and Friends of Clark County are submitting the attached letter together. We ask that Clark County Council adopt the MID-RANGE population, as the Office of Financial Management projections support. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Heidi Cody (she/her)

SW WA Community Organizer
ACE Coalition Manager

Washington Conservation Action

Phone 718-986-2348

Email heidi@waconservationaction.org

Web www.waconservationaction.org

1402 Third Ave, Ste 1400, Seattle, WA 98101

*In 2023, Washington Environmental Council and Washington Conservation Voters are united under a single brand: **Washington Conservation Action**. [Learn more here](#)*

May 1, 2023

Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE)
Friends of Clark County

Clark County Council and Staff

Dear Clark County Council and Staff:

How Clark County decides to build out over the next 20 to 25 years will affect quality of life for everyone who lives here. Choosing a population projection is a crucial first step in updating the County's Comprehensive Plan. With adoption of this number, Clark County Council has an opportunity to lay the foundation for growth that takes into consideration community health, safety and climate resiliency. A crucial part of these considerations is urban density, which affects affordable housing, transportation, traffic congestion, water supply and air quality.

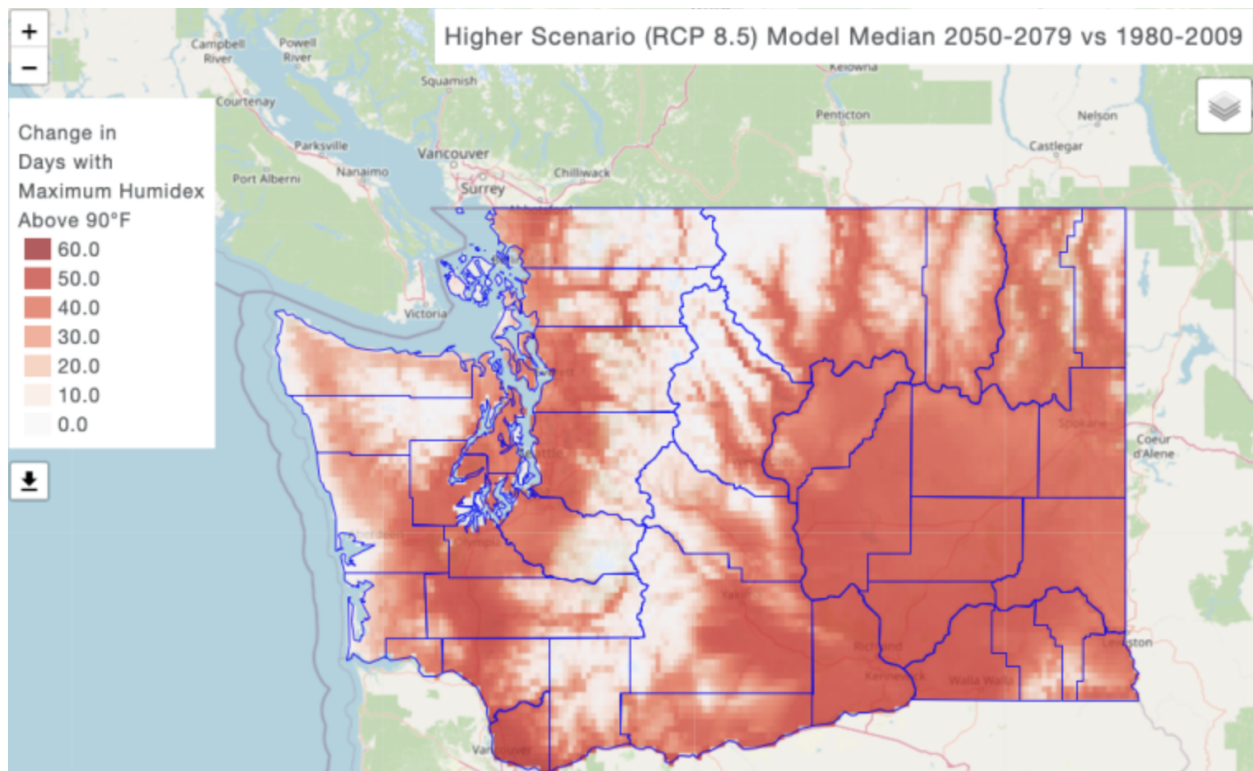


Image from [Climate Mapping for a Resilient Washington](#), a tool created by University of Washington that allows for county-scale climate mapping.

There seems to be a general assumption that increased land supply will automatically make housing more affordable. While that idea sounds sensible, the reality is not that simple. A lot of land in Clark County that is most economically efficient to build on has already been taken. The land that is left often has disadvantages like wetlands, critical habitat or zoning constraints, which means that land has a “lower yield” and is more costly. Current and future renters and

homeowners also incur high costs when new building happens beyond city or county services. Up-front costs of basic civil infrastructure like lift stations, roads, water, sewer, transportation and new meters for each residence are shared by new residents and our tax dollars—ultimately making the land and new housing less affordable.

Rush hour congestion to and from Orchards, and the buildout of housing along the NE 179th St./I-5 corridor without adequate roads to accommodate increased traffic so far, are two examples of urban growth that should have been planned better. Higher density within current urban growth boundaries will help us prevent sprawl and get away from auto-dependent transportation, which is a huge source of air pollution.

In short, expanding the urban growth boundary does not guarantee more affordable land or housing. Likewise, unchecked growth doesn't ensure that quality of life will improve in Clark County. The best projection of future population comes from the Washington Office of Financial Management (OFM), which has been historically accurate and well-documented.

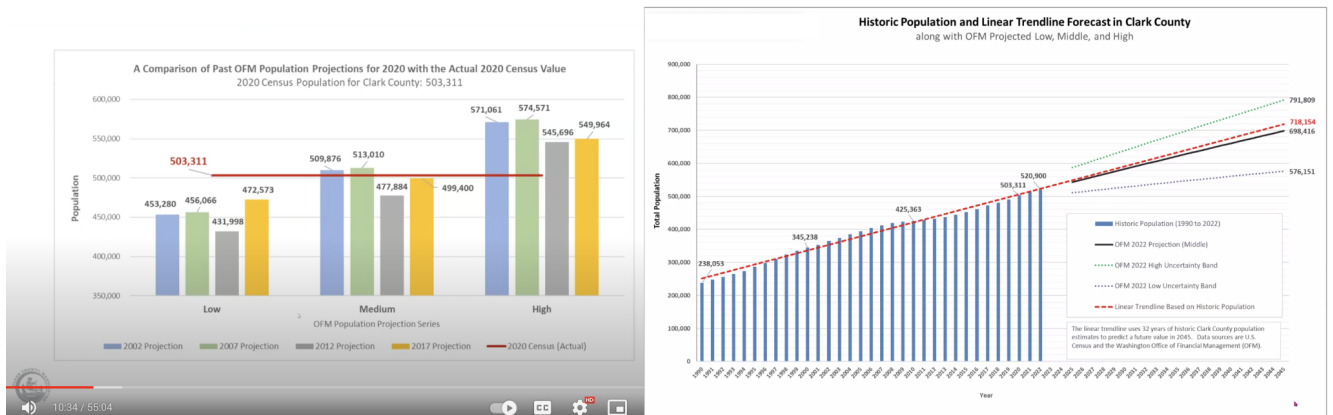


Image on left from a [Clark County Council meeting on 4.5.2023](#) about OFM population prediction. Image on right from an OFM presentation to Clark County Council on 5.1. 2023.

Please adopt the MID-RANGE population projection, as suggested by the OFM. The citizens of Clark County deserve a thoughtful and convincing explanation of what population forecast you are choosing. This decision affects all of us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE)
Friends of Clark County