

From: [Don Steinke](#)
To: [Jenna Kay](#)
Subject: More CAG input
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From Don Steinke -- Cag Member
To Jenna Kay, Clark County

Hi Jenna

Here is some more feedback from the slides in our second Climate Community-Advisory-Group Meeting

Re Flooding

I think we need more granularity on the CAPA flood maps. Otherwise flooding will be difficult to anticipate and mitigate.

Re Water and electricity supply

Most people don't know that most of our water in Clark County comes from wells in aquifers, both shallow and deep.

We on CAG don't know if the aquifer is adequate in terms of volume. We don't know if the aquifer has been contaminated or at risk of being contaminated. For example if the underground storage tank at an old gas station leaks and the owner declares bankruptcy how much will it cost us to mitigate?

BiZi farm is the largest farm that I know in Clark County. The operator says he's at risk of water curtailment by Ecology. Housing development in his watershed, and the associated groundwater withdrawals appear to be shrinking the supply, not only for him but for stream flow in Salmon Creek.

Our hydroelectric system, and Big Ag east of the Cascades depends on snowpack in the Cascades which on average is declining. Clark PUD reports we had a low water year in the hydro system last year. That forced Clark to buy electricity on the open market for 20 times the normal rate in August.

Both the Federal Northwest Power and Conservation Council NPPC and the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee PNUCC report that we will have significant electric energy shortages in the next five years. Our hydro-system maxed out years ago and is currently supplemented with fossil fuel burning power plants. Washington law requires that we shut down our coal power plants in 2025, and gradually reduce our use of gas power plants, incrementally by 2045.

New electric resources don't materialize without planning and investment. The following options are in various stages of development: Efficiency, conservation and stronger building/energy codes, load shifting, utility scale solar, local community solar, residential solar, virtual power plants, utility scale storage, on-shore wind, off-shore wind, geothermal, and nuclear. Currently there are more proposed renewable energy projects in America than all our existing power plants, but they

can't get built because they don't have access to long distance transmission. Long distance transmission is extremely expensive and has taken 17 years to get permitted (eg 300 miles from Hemingway ID to Boardman OR). Utility scale renewable energy projects face strong public opposition in Eastern Washington. That tends to favor local solar and storage to be over-built.

Don Steinke