

From: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
To: [Justin @ Burger Family Farm](#); Sonja.Wiser@clark.wa.gov; [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Bart Catching](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Oliver Orjiako](#)
Cc: ttormanen@WindsorEngineers.com
Subject: RE: Strong Opposition: Windsor Engineers: Request for Inclusion into the Yacolt Urban Reserve Ara/Urban Growth Area
Date: Thursday, June 20, 2024 1:17:19 PM

Good day, Justin,

Thank you for your comments regarding the proposed zoning and UGA changes in Yacolt. I will add these to the Comp Plan Index of Record.

From: Justin @ Burger Family Farm <justin@burgerfamilyfarm.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 1:12 PM
To: Sonja.Wiser@clark.wa.gov; Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>; [Bart Catching <Bart.Catching@clark.wa.gov>](#); [Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>](mailto:Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov); [Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>](mailto:Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov)
Cc: ttormanen@WindsorEngineers.com
Subject: Strong Opposition: Windsor Engineers: Request for Inclusion into the Yacolt Urban Reserve Ara/Urban Growth Area

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Justin Burger, Burger Family Farm
30601 NE Railroad AVE
Yacolt, WA, 98675
justin@burgerfamilyfarm.com

6/20/2024

Community Planning Staff
Clark County WA

Dear Community Planning Staff,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed zoning and UGA changes in Yacolt, WA, as outlined in Windsor Engineers' recent letter. As a family farm owner on the same road, less than a mile from the proposed development area, I am deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts this change will have on our community, environment, and way of life.

The request to revise Yacolt's UGA to include parcels owned by Drew Uskoski, Lyle and Christine Uskoski, James Lindberg, Earl Jackson, Peter Jackson, and Dennis Stephenson is not only premature but also detrimental to the current residents and local agriculture. Here are the key reasons why this zoning change should be denied:

- Preservation of Agricultural Land: Our family farm, along with others in the area, relies on the integrity of the

surrounding agricultural land. The proposed development threatens to erode the agricultural base of our community, leading to loss of farmland, increased land prices, and potential displacement of local farmers.

- Environmental Impact: The introduction of significant urban development into this rural area will have adverse effects on local ecosystems, including increased runoff, potential water contamination, and loss of wildlife habitats. These changes will harm the natural beauty and environmental health of Yacolt.

- Infrastructure Strain: The existing infrastructure in Yacolt is not equipped to handle the influx of new residents and increased traffic that such a development would bring. The strain on roads, utilities, and public services will negatively impact current residents, leading to congestion and potential safety hazards.

- Road and Service Deficiencies: The area in question is accessible only by a single-lane road, which is already experiencing congestion. There are no local services such as grocery stores or other essential amenities, meaning new residents will face long commutes for basic needs, exacerbating traffic problems. Additionally, there is already a large housing development under construction, which is expected to strain our infrastructure and services even further.

- Quality of Life: One of the key attractions of living in Yacolt is its rural charm and tight-knit community. Large-scale development will irrevocably alter the character of our town, leading to overcrowding and a diminished quality of life for existing residents.

The argument presented by Windsor Engineers, citing a shortage of cost-effective housing, does not justify the irreversible damage that will be inflicted on our agricultural and rural community. Responsible growth should prioritize sustainable development that enhances, rather than disrupts, the existing community fabric.

I urge the Community Planning Staff to reject the proposed revisions to Yacolt's UGA and protect our rural lands from unnecessary and harmful urban sprawl. Please consider the long-term consequences of this decision on the environment, local agriculture, and the community we cherish.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Justin Burger, Burger Family Farm
justin@burgerfamilyfarm.com