

From: [Rebecca Messinger](#)
To: [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
Subject: FW: Letter regarding Berk Consulting opposition Letter
Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:27:11 AM
Attachments: [FOCV 06242024 Berk Opposiiton LTR.pdf](#)

Please see the attached comments re: the Berk Consulting contract. Thanks very much.

Rebecca Messinger
Clerk to the Council
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

564-397-4305

-----Original Message-----

From: Janet Kelly <jankelly@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 5:06 PM
To: Rebecca Messinger <Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Karen Bowerman <Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov>; Gary Medvigy <Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Letter regarding Berk Consulting opposition Letter

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Rebecca,

Please include this letter in the comment portion of tomorrows council meeting. I am unable to attend due to a pre-op surgery appointment.

Thank you
Jan Kelly
FOCV
PO Box 821665
Vancouver, WA 98682

cell # 360-798-1879

jankelly@icloud.com



June 24, 2024

To: Clark County Council
1300 Franklin ST
Vancouver, WA 98660

Sent via email: rebecca.messinger@clark.wa.gov,
glen.yung@clark.WA.Gov,
michelle.belkot@clark.WA.Gov,
karen.bowerman@clark.WA.Gov,
Gary.medvigy@clark.WA.Gov,
sue.marshall@clark.WA.Gov,
kathleen.otto@clark.wa.gov,

RE: Council Agenda item Berk Consulting & study on how to implement the FRDU SB 5517

Dear Council Members,

As you all know, the current railroad operator and PVJR is currently being investigated by many state and federal agencies for their past construction practices, that resulted in our wetlands in Curtin Creek and in Chelatchie are being polluted and federal protected fish fry being killed due to streams being disrupted. All work was done with NO permits.

PVJR has for over one and half years been opposing obtaining any permits, any county oversight, and generally ignoring the directions from the state and federal agencies. Why reward a company who does nothing but leave a path of destruction in its wake?

Many of the county residents are opposing the implementation of the FRDU. You are obviously are not listening to the residents along the rail line and in Battle Ground, Brush Prairie, and Central Vancouver where the rail line is next to residential areas, schools in addition to churches. Simply said the implementation of the SB 5517 FRDU is not welcomed by most of us.

The expense of the consulting firm of \$100,00 should not be approved at this time.

It is premature of the county council to do this study considering the fact that zero cost -benefit analysis has yet to be completed. We do not even know if this line will be profitable, or a financial drain on our county.

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Not to mention the damage that will be caused to homes that have been built beside the railroad lines due to the increase in seismic activity due to the heavy freight loads that PVJR wants to run along the line. We believe you are once again placing the cart in front of the horse.

We also have not seen a full environmental review, nor a DS determination, and a full EIS report for the railroad expansion. We do not know how heavy industry will affect our future water supply. What we do know is, heavy industry leaves heavy pollution in its wake.

I believe all of our tap water comes from wells. They are either owned by the City of Vancouver, or individual wells at private residential homes. The pollution from heavy industry and mine operations will most likely have a negative impact on our future drinking water. As you all know, once well water is polluted, you most likely will not be able to fix it. Ask Flint Michigan about the challenges of polluted water and making it fit for human consumption free from any health hazards. We believe best practice is to protect our water source first, last and always.

We urge you to table this decision until such time as the legal issues with PVJR have been resolved and the operator has been replaced with a company that has the track record of being a good business partner to the community. Additionally, a new business partner that is willingly to adhere to ALL of our COUNTY, STATE and FEDERAL permit codes and laws for construction and expansion, while protecting our eco-system from the beginning of the relationship with the county.

We are also taking this opportunity to voice our opinion that the county should sever all ties to PVJR, as we believe this company to be in material breach of the lease.

Best Regards,



Janet Kelly
President

Friends of Central Vancouver (FOCV)