

Jenna Kay

From: Andrea Smith <andsmith360@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 8:31 PM
To: Jenna Kay
Subject: Draft Resilience Goal and Policy List

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jenna,

Thank you and the remainder of your team for allowing us additional time to review and respond with our thoughts. Here are mine for the Draft Resilience Goal and Policy List:

- **Proposed policy: Facilitate increased land access for local farmers, providing affordable agricultural land ownership or long-term, stable leases.** This is a noble goal but we must remain aware we are in the midst of a housing affordability crisis and dedicating more land for this use without expanding the UGA could be a mistake.
- **Proposed policy: Retrofit existing buildings for energy efficiency and weatherization, with an emphasis on passive and/or energy-efficient home heating and cooling to protect residents from extreme temperatures. Incentivize or mandate the inclusion of passive and/or energy-efficient mechanical cooling systems in all new housing developments.** I do support incentivizing homeowners to make elective energy-saving upgrades to their homes. I do not support a mandate of any kind because it will hurt middle and lower-class families the hardest. Secondly, it would violate state law to adopt a more efficient code than the state for any residential structures. It would be against federal law to mandate the installation of electric-only appliances. The county could expand on financial incentives already being offered, but those funds might be better utilized for public safety.
- **Proposed policy: Collaborate with tribal partners and culturally-specific groups on culturally appropriate climate adaptation, community education, and emergency response strategies.** I love this! Thank you for including this item!
- **Proposed policy: Ensure no net loss of ecosystem composition, structure, and functions, especially in Priority Habitats and Critical Areas, and strive for net ecological gain to enhance climate resilience.** This confuses me. Are we talking about all aspects of the ecosystem that we want to have a net gain? Or is it a specific species, such as salmon?
- **Proposed policy: Factor climate impacts into the planning of operations and coordination of preparedness, response, and recovery activities among first-responders and partners, including public health, law enforcement, fire, school, and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel.** I'd really like transportation included in this proposed policy. I cringe at light-rail and more public, less private use transportation methods only because I worry how quickly I can get to my family in the event of an emergency.

- **Proposed policy: Protect the health and wellbeing of outdoor workers exposed to extreme heat and other climate-exacerbated hazards.** Would this be going beyond what Labor and Industries has already adopted?
- **Proposed policy: Require the use of green infrastructure and low-impact development to address increased storm intensities and stormwater runoff.** Again, I'm pretty sure this violates state law.
- **Proposed policy: Plan for 30-minute communities; plan for amenity-rich communities and dense, mixed-use urban development; and link housing strategies with the locations of work sites and jobs.** Do you or anyone on your team know why master planned communities aren't super common here?
- **Proposed policies under proposed goal: Encourage sustainable development within the existing urban growth area and away from hazardprone areas.** The state will have a wildland urban interface code in a few years that is watered down compared to the model code because it removes defensible space. I think the county could inform the public on the importance of defensible space in protecting your home from any fire - whether in the interface or intermix zones within the wildland urban interface code. The main push back on defensible space comes from tree canopy and preservation concerns. County could combine this with information about what native plants survive the best for our local conditions - taking into account climate risks.

Again, thank you for the extended time to reflect on this document.

Andrea Smith, MPA

Policy & Research Manager, Building Industry Association of Washington

Consultant, AMS Public Affairs & Dozer Day®

Volunteer, West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association