

From: [Michelle Pfenning](#)
To: [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Cnty Community Planning](#)
Subject: FW: Aho Construction zoning change request - 172nd Ave & Ward Rd.
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 7:03:32 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Please see the Comments that came to Chair Medvigy. I have already responded to Joe Zimmerman. Please keep comments for the record.

Thank you!

Respectfully,



Michelle Pfenning, OA II

County Council/Manager's Office

Direct: 564-397-5109

Main: 564-397-2232



From: Gary Medvigy <Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 10:10 PM
To: joe.bizifarms@gmail.com; Michelle Pfenning <Michelle.Pfenning@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Re: Aho Construction zoning change request - 172nd Ave & Ward Rd.

Super comments- thank you

Michelle, please send Bizifarms the same information about the process and where the county is presently...

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: joe.bizifarms@gmail.com <joe.bizifarms@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 1:01:54 PM
To: Gary Medvigy <Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Karen Bowerman <Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Aho Construction zoning change request - 172nd Ave & Ward Rd.

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.

Councilor Medvigy,

I have been made aware of the request by Aho Construction to change the zoning of the land parcel that is at NE 172nd Avenue and Ward Road, and to move it inside the urban growth boundary. It is my understanding that Aho wishes to make this change as the land there is not usable as farmland. I could not disagree more.

It is true that this ground is highly acidic and contains a lot of clay soils. The solution for that is to use winter cover crops that, when incorporated into the soil, will raise the organic matter of the soil restoring tilth and encouraging proper drainage. Although this may take several years, it should be noted that it took just as many years of misuse and/or neglect to get the soil to the state that it is currently in. Concerning the soil acidity, a farmer could raise the soil pH using lime (Calcium carbonate) or simply plant a crop that thrives in high-acidity soil, such as blueberries.

I would also mention that soil does not degrade. It may be lacking nutrients or minerals, but soil can be brought back to a productive state again. The concept that soil can be “farmed out” is a fallacy.

Additionally, as many in the county may know of our farm’s situation concerning water rights, this field DOES have water rights, which is another reason that it should remain in agricultural production.

While I will be the first person to say that farming is not easy, our ever-growing county requires that we emphasize and encourage agriculture where we once minimized its importance. As I like to say, they aren’t making more land, and when it is gone, it is gone forever...

Thank you for your time and I appreciate the opportunity to communicate with you.

Best regards,

Joe Zimmerman

Bi-Zi Farms

Cell – 360-977-2428

Main – 360-574-9119

joe.bizifarms@gmail.com

<https://www.bi-zifarms.com/>