

From: [Oliver Orjiako](#)
To: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Messinger](#)
Subject: FW: ACE letter regarding Land Use Alternatives
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 1:20:52 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[ACE Ltr to Clark Co Council - Land Use Alternatives.pdf](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hello Jeff,

Please, for the comp plan index record. Thank you.



OLIVER ORJIAKO
Director
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.2280



From: Heidi Cody <heidi@waconservationaction.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 1:00 PM
To: Karen Bowerman <Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Gary Medvigy <Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Jenna Kay <Jenna.Kay@clark.wa.gov>; Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>; wil.fuentes01@gmail.com
Subject: ACE letter regarding Land Use Alternatives

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.

Hello Clark County Councilmembers and staff,

I hope this email finds you well. Attached please find a letter from Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) SW WA about Land Use Alternatives in the County Comprehensive Planning Process. ACE's engagement with Comprehensive planning at Clark County and the City of Vancouver is funded by a grant to Washington Conservation Action from the WA Dept. of Commerce. I plan to read a shortened version of this letter at this Friday's

hearing. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Heidi Cody



Heidi Cody (she/her)

SW WA Field Manager

Washington Conservation Action

ACE Coalition Manager

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Need hope? Read about our 2024 Bullitt Prize winners, Free and Raven Borsej of the Lummi Nation, emerging leaders in conservation and environmental justice [here](#).

Dec. 6, 2024

Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) SW WA

Clark County Council and Staff

Dear Councilmembers Bowerman, Belkot, Medvigy, Yung, Marshall and staff:

Thank you for your ongoing work on Land Use Alternatives in Clark County's Comprehensive Plan Update. Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) SW WA appreciates this opportunity to comment. ACE is a coalition of 12 environmental, climate and social justice groups that advocates for strong, equitable environmental policy in SW Washington.

Please Postpone Clark County's Land Use Alternatives Decision

ACE asks that Clark County Council postpone decisions about Land Use Alternatives for three months, until new County Councilmembers are onboarded. Land use zoning changes will have significant impacts on climate and community health and safety. The new Clark County Council will be best positioned to adopt these decisions that profoundly affect our community's future.

Community Groups Need More Time to Participate in Land Use Alternatives

While County staff has done excellent work coordinating public input through surveys, public events and the Citizen Advisory and Environmental Justice Groups, Land Use Alternatives are a crucial point for diverse community participation. Community groups need more time to weigh in on the Alternatives, for a wider range of voices and ideas to be heard. ACE is asking for three more months to coordinate input with the groups funded by WA Dept. of Commerce to participate, including offering an additional Alternative for consideration.

As Washington law states:

"Each county and city that is required or chooses to plan under RCW [36.70A.040](#) shall establish and broadly disseminate to the public a public participation program identifying procedures providing for **early and continuous public participation in the development and amendment of comprehensive land use plans and development regulations implementing such plans.**"

Clark County's own 2025 Public Participation Plan says:

"Community Planning wants to prioritize engagement with **community members who have historically been left out of public planning processes**, such as renters, people living with disabilities, immigrants and refugees, BIPOC-led organizations, people with limited income, people who are cost burdened, and people who are houseless, with the hope that **the resulting Plan is well-grounded in the experience and knowledge of a wider range of public perspectives that has historically been achieved.**"¹

¹ Clark County 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update/ PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Dept. of Commerce is Funding Local Groups to Participate in Comprehensive Planning

Multiple organizations, including several local BIPOC-led community based organizations and Washington Conservation Action, have been granted or sub-granted funds from WA Dept. of Commerce to help with Comprehensive Planning at Clark County. Clearly, Commerce is interested in input from the groups it has funded—including many BIPOC community-based organizations—to participate in Comprehensive Planning at Clark County.

ACE, whose participation in Comprehensive Planning is supported by a Commerce grant to Washington Conservation Action, requests additional time to suggest at least one Land Use Alternative detailing our recommendations, in coordination with other local organizations that have received funding from Commerce to participate in this work.

We understand the County Council is currently only considering three Land Use Alternatives. Any other Alternatives need to be considered with a full public process for procedural reasons.

Please Do Not Adopt Alternatives that Conflict with Climate Goals

The Land Use Alternatives decision is an opportunity for Clark County to come into alignment with [Washington state's climate goals](#)—not set us back. ACE strongly urges Council not adopt Land Use Alternatives submitted to the County that dramatically conflict with climate goals. Expanding the Urban Growth Area (UGA) by 18,000 acres or including every request to be included in the UGA (and every point in between) is unacceptable.

[ACE's comment letter to Clark County Planning Commission](#) addresses some of our concerns, including avoiding sprawl and prioritizing infill, housing affordability and transportation justice.

In Conclusion

Clark County has an opportunity to plan for a future that incorporates citizens' concerns, in an updated Comprehensive Plan that includes community input in a new way. ACE requests that Clark County postpone decisions about Land Use Alternatives until a more equitable, community-based "people's alternative" can be included in the Land Use Alternatives, and until new County Councilmembers are in office. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) SW WA

CC: Wil Fuentes, Matt Little