

**From:** [publiccomment](#)  
**To:** [Oliver Orijako](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Council Hearing Public Comment  
**Date:** Friday, December 6, 2024 8:22:30 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
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[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Please see the comments below. Thank you!



**Rebecca Messinger**  
Clerk to the Council  
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**From:** Clark County <[webmaster@clark.wa.gov](mailto:webmaster@clark.wa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 10:12 PM  
**To:** publiccomment <[publiccomment@clark.wa.gov](mailto:publiccomment@clark.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Council Hearing Public Comment

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Submitted on Thu, 12/05/2024 - 10:11 PM

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**Subject**

DEIS

**Date of Hearing**

Thu, 12/05/2024

**Comment**

Good morning, Council members, community leaders, and residents of our city.

My name is Alondra Abrego Viveros, and I am the Community Engagement and Policy Organizer for the Southwest Washington Equity Coalition, a non-profit that advocates for equitable policy development to support communities of color across the region.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning about an issue that will shape the future of our community, the Comprehensive Plan's proposed land use alternatives for the DEIS. I come before you not in opposition, but in the spirit of collaboration, urging us all to consider what is at stake and the voices that must be honored in the process.

You may know that the Washington State Department of Commerce has invested more than a half a million dollars into culturally diverse non-profits in the County specifically to support community engagement with the Comp Plan. We work to coordinate and organize the 5 other organizations that were funded by Commerce, which collectively represent nearly 20% of Clark County residents.

Before I get into why you should reconsider your decision about Land Use Alternatives, I wanted to recognize the effort the County staff have put forward to collaborate with SWEC and the other organizations that are funded by the Department of Commerce. They have engaged with us regularly since we began our work in September, have helped us gain a deeper understanding of the Comprehensive Plan, and have offered their time and expertise to educate us by breaking down the complexities of the plan into accessible language for the community.

As we know, land use decisions have far reaching consequences. They define the character of our neighborhoods, determine the accessibility of resources, and ultimately impact the well being of every resident. These decisions are even more critical in southwest Washington, where communities of color have been historically marginalized.

The Southwest Washington Equity Coalition and other community based organizations have already expressed willingness to engage in the process, but we need time. As I mentioned, Commerce has funded our orgs to help us engage the community in the process, but we were not able to begin our work until October. By then, most of the work to develop land use alternatives had been completed, thus excluding our organizations, and communities, from explicit engagement. We need more time to collaborate with staff and bring forward solutions that reflect the needs of our community. This is not just about land use, it's about equity, inclusion, and ensuring that those most affected by these decisions are not left out of the conversation.

With newly elected council members set to take their seats, we have an opportunity to begin this conversation with leaders who reflect diversity of voice with community organizations in a meaningful way. To move forward now, before they are seated, risks undermining the trust of the very people we aim to serve. It risks silencing voices that deserve to be heard.

Council Members, this morning I urge you to demonstrate your commitment to our shared future. Let us wait, let us collaborate, and let us ensure that every voice is heard in this vital decision making process.

Thank you.

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