

From: [Jenna Kay](#)
To: [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
Subject: FW: Urgent | Uphold GMA Compliance – No UGA Expansions or Premature Land Use Study
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:46:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[5.6.25 ACE Ltr to Clark County re GMA Compliance.pdf](#)

From: Heidi Cody <heidi@waconservationaction.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:36 PM
To: Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@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>
Subject: Urgent | Uphold GMA Compliance – No UGA Expansions or Premature Land Use Study

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Greetings Clark County Council and staff,

Attached please find a letter on behalf of Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) SW WA.

ACE urges Clark County Council to vote not to expand any Urban Growth Boundaries (UGAs) within the county. We urge you to delay the rushed agricultural lands study until after the Comprehensive Plan deadline.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing work.

Sincerely,
Heidi Cody



Heidi Cody (she/her)

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ACE Coalition Manager

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May 6, 2025

Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) SW WA

Dear Clark County Councilmembers and staff:

Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) urges Clark County Council to vote not to expand any Urban Growth Boundaries (UGAs) within the county. We urge you to delay the rushed agricultural lands study until after the Comprehensive Plan deadline.

ACE is a coalition of local environmental and environmental justice organizations that advocates for protective environmental and climate policy in SW Washington, including Comprehensive Planning.

County staff has demonstrated that all cities within the county can accommodate projected growth within existing UGAs. Advancing a countywide study of agricultural lands now would prioritize the interests of developers and a few landowners over the long-term needs of residents for locally grown food, climate resilience and equitable growth, and over the legal mandates of the Growth Management Act (GMA).

County Council's ongoing lack of compliance with the GMA has consequences. While this noncompliance is part of the legacy of prior Councils, we elected you, the current Councilmembers, to change that trajectory. We need you to lead with transparency, uphold environmental law, and prioritize responsible, climate-resilient planning.

Some consequences of not complying with GMA are as follows:

- Misusing taxpayer dollars to fund an agricultural land study now—against the wishes of many of your constituents and against the advice of Clark County staff—will cause Clark County to miss the December 2025 deadline for Comprehensive Planning.
- Missing this deadline means Clark County will continue to be ineligible for grant funding from the state. Our county has already lost millions of dollars by not being in compliance with the GMA.

- Clark County risks an additional delay to meeting GMA compliance by a year or more by not meeting the 2025 deadline. The county also risks more lawsuits if the agricultural land study is inadequate.
- These grant dollars could fund important work like reducing sprawl; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; reducing vehicle miles traveled; increasing climate resilience within Clark County's communities, and funding programming and infrastructure to implement these plans, as well as hiring a grant writer.

The County Council stands at a crucial crossroads. Failing to act responsibly now would mean missing a critical opportunity to plan proactively for our future. We are in a climate crisis. We need our elected officials to lead with urgency, vision, and accountability.

Some recently elected County Councilmembers campaigned on protecting farmland, preserving our county's rural character, reducing sprawl, affordable housing and upholding environmental laws. The Growth Management Act is, fundamentally, an environmental law that requires timely planning on a legal deadline. This is the moment to act on your campaign promises. We urge you to rise to the occasion and vote with the values that earned our trust and support.

Please delay the agricultural land study until after December 2025, and please do not extend UGAs within Clark County. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) SW WA