

From: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
To: [Jude Wait](#); [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
Cc: [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Rebecca Messinger](#); [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Jenna Kay](#)
Subject: RE: GMP - May 7, 2025 Testimony
Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 3:30:48 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good day, Jude,

Thank you for submitting these supplemental comments regarding the Agricultural Study proposed to be conducted for the DEIS Land Use Alternatives.

These will be entered into the Comprehensive Plan Index of Record.

Best regards,



Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4558



From: Jude Wait <waitjude@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 3:14 PM
To: Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>; Rebecca Messinger <Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov>; Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Jenna Kay <Jenna.Kay@clark.wa.gov>; Sue <suemarshall5@hotmail.com>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Re: GMP - May 7, 2025 Testimony

I added some of these comments orally today.

Farming sector suffers inadequate access to affordable land, markets, and infrastructure.

Clark County is notorious for sprawl and a lack of supportive policies to foster a resilient local food system.

PROGRESS: Climate Element of the Growth Management Plan -- 27 policies re Food & Agriculture, not counting all the other Elements of the Plan.

Progress -- the PROCESS of developing the Climate Element -- please replicate this.

-- for the future land study, for the Ag advisory commission !!

Un-used Ag land is not an excuse for dedesignation. Much of the BEST has been converted.

Farm turnover is HIGH. Remedies have not been implemented. Yes the land study is overdue. BUT it needs to be done.

with an approach modeled by the Climate Element...

NO we cannot afford to DELAY the Comprehensive Plan Update and DEIS

How does your delaying the Plan update impact farm and food enterprises ??--

puts us more at risk, with more uncertainty, at a time when agricultural sector is being attacked, defunded, and demonized on the national level

One policy in the Climate Element: Right to Food.

A corollary -- farming and food production is a community services -- supporting ecological resilience and economic sustainability,

Farmers and farmworkers and food businesses are on the Front Lines of Climate and Economic Impacts --

Act Local in support of agricultural food system and model for others --

respectfully,

Jude Wait, Ph.D., MiM

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/judewait/>

/ Wellsave, LLC: R&D services in food system justice / social-environmental & natural resource sciences

/ Urban Agrifood System Collaborative Action Research Education for BIPOC Community-led Equitable Food-Oriented Development in the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Region

/ Research Scholar / People's PI / Food System CARE

/ Wait, J.A. (2021). Resilience of food farming in rapidly urbanizing regions

/ Member, Agroecology Research-Action Collective (ARC)

/ Notional Lab of Agroecology & Urban Ecosystems

/ Residing in the homelands of Chinookan and Taidnapam peoples and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, (aka Vancouver, Washington)

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pronouns: they/their

On Wed, May 7, 2025 at 8:00 AM Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov> wrote:

Good day, Jude,

Thank you for submitting comments regarding the resource lands assessment for the Land Use Alternatives to be studied in the DEIS.

These will be entered into the Comprehensive Plan Index of Record.

Best regards,



Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4558



From: Jude Wait <waitjude@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 7:21 PM

To: Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>

Cc: Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; Rebecca Messinger <Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov>; Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Jenna Kay <Jenna.Kay@clark.wa.gov>

Subject: GMP - May 7, 2025 Testimony

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Dear County Council

Jude Wait is my name. My Ph.D. in Environmental and Natural Resource SCIENCE features the Resilience of Food Farming in Rapidly Urbanizing Clark County--all about farmers support needs, food system opportunities, and policies that drive agricultural viability. This is my third round of GMP updates.

I recommend you follow County Staff recommendations for the many reasons they have provided, alongside extensive public input. Please do not delay coming into compliance with the growth management act, further encompassing natural resource protection laws.

1. Please honor the intent and guiding ordinance of the Agricultural Advisory Commission regarding land use policies. Any area-wide planning falls within their scope of work.

2. New to the GMP update -- County Planning is developing the new Climate Element, which has very significant applicability to all land use policies and the DEIS. Responsible area-wide planning for natural resources and development needs to be accountable to the Climate Element. You need the Climate Element of Plan to govern future planning.

Clark County has just completed extensive community engagement notably informed by the 15 Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) member organizations. The EJC in turn significantly informed the Community Advisory Group (CAG) consensus-based recommendations on Goals and Policies to be included in the Climate Element.

CAG members included development, conservation, and environmental justice interests. They reached consensus through dialogue. One person from the development sector indicated a preference for dialogue and consensus, yet here we are. Future area-wide planning could engage the many voices and diverse expertise needed. In the future, we can keep our limited dollars local.

We (the Farm and Food Justice Network) recommend that any area-wide planning (and the Ag Commission) take lessons from the successful EJC and CAG processes. Additionally, the Climate Element Goals and Policies are informed by Technical experts across multiple agencies intersecting the GMP and DEIS.

Please do not undermine your investments in a more resilient and equitable Clark County: Complete the Update on time; Delay the resource land assessment.

Thank you for your attention,

Jude Wait, Ph.D.
Farm and Food Justice Network (one of the 15 EJC member groups)