From:
 Jeffrey Delapena

 To:
 Monica Zazueta

 Cc:
 Cnty 2025 Comp Plan

Subject: RE: Community Group sign on letter re: ag land study and accountability

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 10:15:46 AM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

image002.png image003.png image004.png

Good day, Monica,

Thank you for forwarding your letter to Councilor Little regarding the Comprehensive Plan and Countywide Agricultural Lands Study.

This will be entered into the Comp Plan Index of Record.

Best,



Jeff Delapena Program Assistant COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4558







From: Monica Zazueta <zazuetamonica 0813@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 9:58 AM **To:** Matt Little < Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>

Subject: Community Group sign on letter re: ag land study and accountability

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Dear Commissioner Little,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to express our deep concerns regarding

the direction our community is taking under your leadership in relation to land use and your prioritization of development over the preservation of agricultural land. Your recent vote shows you are willing to put Clark County at serious legal and financial risk.

It is disheartening to observe that your decisions appear increasingly aligned with corporate interest stakeholders, deviating from the environmental values you championed during your campaign. While the Sierra Club LooWit did not endorse you during your second run, you still engaged with environmental groups. You emphasized your commitment to saving farmland—a commitment that should reflect a fundamental responsibility to our community and environment.

The current trajectory of our county will put us out of compliance with the Growth Management Act, jeopardizing our ability to secure essential grants that could help transform our neighborhoods into sustainable and climate resilient communities. Is this truly the path we want to follow—business as usual—while neglecting our urgent need for environmental stewardship?

We are also concerned about the well-being of County staff who will be required to work longer hours and miss December vacation to complete a study that your staff has told you time and again will be legally indefensible in this time frame. Their workload and mental health should be a priority.

Conducting a countywide study of ag land to designate it for development raises critical questions. What types of jobs are being proposed? Are they sufficient to support the rising housing costs, with homes in the area expected to start at \$500,000? What types of housing are being proposed? The lack of affordable housing in Ridgefield and the absence of multi-family units lead to a troubling conclusion: ongoing development in the business as usual model seems to primarily benefit those who can already afford these high prices, while the needs of lower-income residents are overlooked.

It is also crucial to address the disparity in access to some members of Clark County Council. Corporate interests often have the resources to engage with the Council more frequently than community organizations like LULAC, ACE, OWIES, and the Sierra Club, which advocate for equitable development and housing for underserved populations.

As your actions increasingly deviate from the community's needs, we urge you to prioritize outreach to residents and community-based organizations and genuinely consider their viewpoints. Meaningful engagement with the community will enhance transparency and ensure that diverse voices are heard.

True progress is not about economic growth; it is about the health and well-being of our community—mentally, physically, and spiritually. Many Native cultures measure wealth not by what one accumulates but by what one shares with others. As a leader, we hope you will embrace this philosophy and prioritize the needs of all constituents, especially those who lack the privilege or time to advocate for themselves.

We appreciate your attention to these pressing matters and look forward to a more equitable and sustainable approach to our community's future. Thank you for your ongoing efforts, and we hope to see a commitment to accountability in light of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Monica Zazeuta Tabor, President, Vancouver Metro LULAC Council
Mark Leed, Chair, Sierra Club Loo Wit
Heidi Cody, Coalition Manager, Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) SW WA
Karen Morrison, Executive Director, Odyssey World International Education Services