

From: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
To: [Diana Avalos Leos](#); [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
Cc: [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Jenna Kay](#); [Jose Alvarez](#)
Subject: RE: LLNW's Letter
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 3:33:41 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good day, Diana,

Thank you very much for providing this letter and LLNW's feedback related to Clark County's Comprehensive Plan update.

This will be brought to the attention of the Planning Commission and added to the Public Record.

Best regards,



Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4558



From: Diana Avalos Leos <clark.co.latinoyouthconference@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 3:28 PM
To: Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>; Jenna Kay <Jenna.Kay@clark.wa.gov>; Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: LLNW's Letter

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.

Good afternoon, Jeffrey,

Would you please forward the attached letter to Planning Commissioners.

Thank you,

Diana Avalos Leos

Founder/Director

Latino Leadership NW

11818 SE Mill Plain Blvd. Suite 211

Vancouver, WA 98684

www.latinoleadershipnw.org

www.facebook.com/latinoleadershipnorthwest

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/latino-leadership-northwest/?viewAsMember=true>





September 3, 2025

Clark County Planning Commission
cc: Clark County Council and staff

Re: Advance Equity Through Race
Dear Clark County Planning Commission,

As the Executive Director at Latino Leadership NW, I write to urge the Clark County Council to uphold and strengthen inclusive, community-rooted approaches that advance equity and climate resilience in all facets of planning and policy development.

On July 10, several Planning Commissioners had a conversation during a work session, questioning the appropriateness of including references to race in recommended policies drafted by the County Climate Advisory Group (CAG) and Environmental Justice Group (EJC). That conversation was recorded [here](#) starting at roughly the 30-minute mark to 40 minutes.

We acknowledge that our region faces mounting challenges from climate disruption to widening disparities it is imperative that our Comprehensive Planning processes reflect the lived realities, wisdom, and aspirations of the communities most impacted.

We respectfully request the Clark County Council to do the following:

- Ensure that outreach and engagement efforts are multilingual, culturally responsive, and accessible to historically marginalized communities. Community input should be integrated early and meaningfully, not as a formality, but as a guiding force.
- Uphold transparent, participatory planning frameworks that reflect the diversity of our region. This includes cross-sector coalitions that bring community expertise to the table.
- Prioritize land use, housing, transportation, and environmental strategies that reduce disparities, mitigate climate risks, and promote intergenerational well-being. Planning must be bold, intersectional, and rooted in justice.

As noted by advocates in Clark County, removing racial references from the climate element weakens the integrity of the plan and repeats a harmful narrative that ignores the legacy of colonization, land theft, and environmental racism. Therefore, omitting race from climate planning erases the lived experiences of those most impacted and risks perpetuating the very disparities we aim to solve.

Referencing race isn't about division, it's about precision, accountability, and justice. Our Clark County Comprehensive Plan is a rare opportunity to pass a more equitable, protective policy that seeks to bring awareness to the historical discriminatory practices of racial covenants that restricted BIPOC populations from owning property throughout Vancouver and other parts of Clark County. We ask you not to disenfranchise or marginalize voices that have been invited into the policy process. The CAG honored the input of the EJC. The Planning Commission should in turn honor the input of the CAG and EJC.

We recognize the complexity of this work and the competing pressures you face. Yet we also know that transformative change is possible when governance is grounded in trust, accountability, and shared vision.

Sincerely,

Diana Avalos Leos

Diana Avalos Leos

Executive Director at Latino Leadership NW