



CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY WORKSHOP – AGRICULTURAL LANDS STUDY
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025
OPEN HOUSE – PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Battle Ground Community Center
912 E Main Street
Battle Ground, Washington

5:30 p.m.

TESTIMONY

LEIJA: My name is Myrna Leija, that's M-y-r-n-a, L-e-i-j-a, and I'm on the La Center City Council. I lived for 28 years in Battle Ground and I saw the explosive growth that happened here, dairy farms being bought up and tons of houses being built on these dairy farms, but seven years ago I moved to La Center and in the last two and a half years I've been on the city council and we've been working and planning this last year for the Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan and we need to stay compliant with Washington State.

We have to incorporate some more land so that we can have a place to build business and industry. And so, we have the availability to buy nine parcels that are owned by five people, it's approximately 130 acres but only 22 acres are buildable, the rest is not buildable at all, it's rocks and trees and cliffs so therefore it also has not been used for agriculture and decking.

So, we just want to buy those pieces of property, incorporate them and then we can use only 22 acres of that actually to build in businesses and industry because we need that to be compliant with the Washington State Comprehensive Plan and to have money for infrastructure.

And so, if the County says, oh, no, that 22 acres is agriculture land, then we won't be in compliance and as far as I know that hasn't been agricultural land in decades and decades, so we really need that property to be in compliance.

And as a last note I would like to say that the reason I mentioned the 28 years I lived in Battle Ground and how I saw the explosive growth starting in about 1994 from 5600 population to 22,000 population was I was trying to make the point that I do care about ag land and I do care about explosive growth, I do care; however, for La Center we haven't been having explosive growth as far as buying tons of property, we just need to buy this so that we can have it to be in compliance with the State of Washington and be able to put businesses and industry out by the freeway.