

From: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
To: [Heidi Cody](#); [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Rebecca Messinger](#)
Cc: [Alondra Abrego Viveros](#); "[Siobhana McEwen](#)"
Subject: RE: 12-org comment on Land Use Alternatives
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 3:45:22 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Good day, Heidi,

Thank you very much for providing this group comment and feedback ahead of the Joint Hearing to select the Preferred Land Use Alternative for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update..

This will be brought to the attention of the Planning Commission ahead of the Hearing and will be entered into the Index of Record.

Best regards,



Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4558



From: Heidi Cody <heidi@waconservationaction.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 3:42 PM
To: [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](mailto:comp.plan@clark.wa.gov) <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>; [Glen Yung](mailto:Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov) <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; [Matt Little](mailto:Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov) <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; [Sue Marshall](mailto:Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov) <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; [Wil Fuentes](mailto:Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov) <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; [Michelle Belkot](mailto:Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov) <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; [Oliver Orjiako](mailto:Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov) <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; jenna.ka@clark.wa.gov; [Jose Alvarez](mailto:Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov) <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>; Jeffrey.delapena@clark.wa.gov; [Rebecca Messinger](mailto:Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov) <Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov>;
Cc: [Alondra Abrego Viveros](mailto:aabregoviveros@swecwa.org) <aabregoviveros@swecwa.org>; "[Siobhana McEwen](mailto:Siobhana.McEwen@swecwa.org)" <smcewen@swecwa.org>
Subject: 12-org comment on Land Use Alternatives

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Hello!

Attached please find a comment that Alondra Brigero-Viveros of SW Washington Equity Coalition (SWEC) will read at the joint County Planning Commission and Council hearing about preferred Land Use Alternatives tomorrow, Thursday 1/8/26.

Thank you on behalf of:

NAACP Vancouver
Fourth Plain Forward
Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) SW WA
Vancouver Metro LULAC Council #47026
Vancouver Audubon
Odyssey World International Education Services
Sierra Club - Loo Wit Group
Washington Conservation Action
Columbia Riverkeeper
NAYA Family Center / NAYA Action Fund
SW Washington Equity Coalition (SWEC)
Vietnamese Community of Clark County



Heidi Cody (she/her)

SW WA Field Manager

Washington Conservation Action

ACE Coalition Manager

Evergreen Workers Union: Member of
Communications Workers of America Local 7800

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1417 Fourth Ave, Ste 800, Seattle, WA 98101

Jan 7, 2026

Dear Clark County Council and staff,

This comment is a shortened version of a [Dec. 15th letter to Council cosigned by 12 local groups, many of which are community-based organizations of color.](#)

As you consider which Land Use Alternatives to choose, we invite you to consider Gresham. Gresham sacrificed its prime farmland for rapid development. Today Gresham is dealing with the consequences—sprawl, traffic and the loss of irreplaceable soils. Clark County does not have to repeat that pattern. We ask you to support and protect farms, forests, open spaces and connected wildlife habitat.

Every Councilmember voted to require that food security be a required consideration in your Ag Land Study. We now ask Council to accept and act on the findings of that study. Our future food security and climate resiliency depend on retaining Clark County's remaining prime ag lands.

- **We ask Council to keep all the County's ag land designated as ag land.**
- **We ask Council to designate additional ag lands in the County that were found by the study to meet the legal threshold for ag lands.**

State-provided data show that all cities within Clark County have enough land to accommodate the growth projections Council adopted. Please work with Ridgefield, La Center and Camas to find Land Use Alternatives that **do not expand Urban Growth Areas.**

Maintaining local control of our food supply is important for economic and emergency reasons. Many residents are interested in Indigenous foods, food forests, and experimenting with reintroduction of beavers and other measures to take care of our lands. These ideas are connected to **climate resiliency**, which is required by the Growth Management Act.

Please honor your Ag Commission, whose position is: "to use encroaching development as a justification to de-designate land, you would essentially always be chipping away at ag land, which goes against the purpose of the ag land designations—the **conservation** purpose of that."

There is no purpose in having an Ag Commission if Councilmembers are simply going to ignore their expertise.

Ag lands are important to birds and wildlife for food, cover and nesting habitat. Habitat loss through conversion, degradation and fragmentation has significantly altered the landscape for birds throughout Clark County. Farms with a mix of crop and livestock operations, or those with more diverse landscapes including natural areas, tend to support higher bird density and diversity, which can be beneficial to agriculture.

To keep building as usual and sacrifice our farmland for private interests who don't need it is fundamentally inequitable. Our Comp Plan must protect those who have historically, and continue to be, impacted by systemic racism, discrimination, poverty and environmental injustice.

You can't have food security or climate resilience without land for farms, forests and connected wildlife habitat. Once the farmland is gone, we can't get the land back.

Sincerely,

NAACP Vancouver
Fourth Plain Forward
Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) SW WA
Vancouver Metro LULAC Council #47026
Vancouver Audubon
Odyssey World International Education Services
Sierra Club - Loo Wit Group
Washington Conservation Action
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