

From: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
To: [Clark County Citizens United, Inc.](#); [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Bart Catching](#); [Jeffrey Delapena](#); [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Jose Alvarez](#)
Subject: RE: Consequences of no accountability - process must be legal, justified, correct, fair and honest.
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 4:03:53 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good day, Susan,

Thank you for providing this feedback related to the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update. This will be added to the Index of Record.

Best,



Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4558



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From: Clark County Citizens United, Inc. <cccuinc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 3:56 PM
To: Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>; Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>; Bart Catching <Bart.Catching@clark.wa.gov>; CommDev OA Land Use <CommDevOALandUse@clark.wa.gov>; Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov>; Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>; Brent Davis <Brent.Davis@clark.wa.gov>; April Furth <April.Furth@clark.wa.gov>; Ariel Whitacre <Ariel.Whitacre@clark.wa.gov>; Lance Watt <Lance.Watt@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Fw: Consequences of no accountability - process must be legal, justified, correct, fair and honest.

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January 13, 2026

Clark County Council
Clark County Planning Commission
Clark County Community Development
P.O.Box 5000
Vancouver, Washington 98666

FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Re: Consequences of no accountability - process must be legal, justified, correct, fair and honest.

Dear Councilors, Commissioners and Staff,

Clark County Citizens United, Inc. believes there is no accountability when county agency staff get it wrong in the permitting process. County staff are often referred to as the experts when conducting business with the citizens. That would be fine, if the assumption is their work can withstand scrutiny and uphold public policy goals. We are seeing failures on both accounts.

The rationale of the assumption fails when their work fails to hold up to scrutiny. County agents routinely make faulty determinations, embellish reports and rewrite definitions. This needlessly drives permitting costs, housing costs and environmental regulatory restrictions. The costs associated with these errors can easily add up. However, the costs associated with the loss of protections for private property rights may be devastating and wipe out intended uses for private land. These are real-world challenges currently facing county rural permittees.

County agents appear to work with no oversight and do not pay the price for their failures. There appears to be no accountability, no incentive to get permitting practices right. Permitting agent's faulty environmental determinations, primarily concerning wetlands, buffers and mitigations, is a case in point.

Agency staff are supposed to be the "experts", the ones that are able to sort out complexities, perform accurate assessments, risks, make wise decisions based on scientific facts. Instead, county agency "experts" end up making faulty determinations and writing permit reports that contain demands for unwarranted buffers, unwarranted mitigations and unwarranted conservation covenants. They accomplish this by going beyond their jurisdictional authority. When confronted with questions and inaccuracies, they fail to engage and refuse to admit their own work contains misinformation, mischaracterizations, and faulty determinations.

The fact that county agency "experts" routinely make faulty determinations in the permitting process and the failure to address them honestly shows there is a great deficiency in the process. If county agents pay no price for being wrong, there is no accountability. Are they led by overconfidence? Are they led by policy decisions? Whatever the case, government policy, oversight, accountability are critical to be effective.

The county permitting staff's continued inability to acknowledge mistakes shows that without significant change, Clark County's permitting process will continue to fail. It is up to all agencies within the Clark County government to assure the citizens that process is legal, justified, correct, fair and honest.

Sincerely,

Susan Rasmussen, President

Clark County Citizens United, Inc.
P.O.Box 2188
Battle Ground, Washington 98604