

From: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
To: [Heidi Cody](#)
Cc: [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Jose Alvarez](#)
Subject: RE: Comment on offensive DEAB comment signed by 11 local organizations
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 1:49:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[2.17.26 CBOs DEAB comment.pdf](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Good day, Heidi,

Thank you very much for forwarding this comment letter. This will be shared with the Planning Commission.

This will also be entered into the Comprehensive Plan Index of Record.

Best,



Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4558



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From: Heidi Cody <heidi@waconservationaction.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 1:40 PM
To: Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>; Rebecca Messinger <Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov>; Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov>; Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Comment on offensive DEAB comment signed by 11 local organizations

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Hello Councilmembers and staff,

Attached please find a comment letter signed by 11 local groups, regarding an offensive comment made last month by a representative of the County's Development & Engineering Advisory Board (DEAB).

Sincerely,

Vancouver Metro LULAC #47026
Vietnamese Community of Clark County
NAACP Vancouver
Washington Conservation Action
Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington
Hispanic Disability Support SWWA (Pasitos Gigantes)
Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) SW WA
Southwest Washington LULAC #47013
NAYA Action Fund
Fourth Plain Forward
SW Washington Equity Coalition (SWEC)



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

February 17, 2026

Chair Marshall and Councilmembers Yung, Belkot, Fuentes and Little
County Manager Kathleen Otto
Community Planning Director Oliver Orjiako
Planning Commission

Dear Planning Commission, County Council and Staff,

This letter is in support of an earlier comment submitted to you by Ann Foster, President of Friends of Clark County, regarding a classist and racist comment by Eric Golemo of the Clark County Development & Engineering Advisory Board (DEAB) at a County public hearing on January 15th. We are a group of community-based organizations of color and allies working together to advance racial equity and environmental justice in County Comprehensive Planning.

On behalf of the DEAB, Golemo stated "...we'll attract what we plan for. While Clark County used to attract the best and the brightest from the metro area, we'll now be at risk of becoming a hub for low-income and subsidized housing."

This offensive comment:

- Suggests a normalization by DEAB and the folks it represents, of land use planning's historically and ongoing racist practice of keeping people of color out of communities.
- Implies that folks who need affordable housing are not the best and the brightest.
- Ignores Clark County's housing affordability crisis, which severely impacts BIPOC and low-income folks.
- Shows that education is still needed around systemic racism. It is deeply troubling that Golemo felt it was ok to publicly state this as a representative of a County board—and that he wasn't called out.
- Ignores the [affordable housing requirements of the Growth Management Act](#).

- Ignores that continuing to build overpriced single family homes contributes to sprawl and increased air pollution. If folks can't afford to live here, they are likely adding to pollution by commuting.

All people who work in Clark County should be able to afford to live in Clark County. Kids who graduate from our high schools should be able to afford living here.

We ask Clark County to prioritize actual affordable housing, a wide variety of housing options and infill development over Urban Growth Boundary expansions. Please choose Land Use Alternative 1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Vancouver Metro LULAC #47026

Vietnamese Community of Clark County

NAACP Vancouver

Washington Conservation Action

Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington

Hispanic Disability Support SWWA (Pasitos Gigantes)

Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE) SW WA

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