

**From:** [webmaster](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Council Hearing Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2026 11:37:20 AM

---

**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.



Submitted on Mon, 04/27/2026 - 11:37 AM

**Name**

Diane Dempster

**Phone Number**

[2067519525](tel:2067519525)

**Email Address**

[dianedempster36@gmail.com](mailto:dianedempster36@gmail.com)

**Subject**

Comprehensive Plan

**Date of Hearing**

Mon, 04/27/2026

**Comment**

Dear Councilors,

My name is Diane Dempster. My comments today are on food security in Clark County in relation to the comprehensive plan. I encourage you to adopt alternative 1. This is the only alternative that gives us a chance to become more self-sufficient in food production. Clark County has lost a substantial amount of agricultural land in the last 30 years. A once thriving agricultural economy has turned into houses. Houses that are full of people who could buy local food if it was available and convenient.

We need to preserve and support the large farms we have left and encourage small and mid-sized farms to thrive. To feed the people, we need to invest in agriculture. We should not assume that because it is near an urban area it cannot be farmed successfully. A study done by Justin O'Dea called "Farming on the Urban Fringe" shows that farming near urban areas can be very successful and productive. Farms can produce many crops as well as employ people. Farms supply other businesses with an income as well; businesses such as farm supply, equipment dealers, insurance companies and grocery stores.

As the Ag Lands study showed, Clark County has some of the most productive farmland in the State. We can grow many things that people consume every day; tree fruit, vegetables, meat, nuts, grains and berries. Most of the food consumed in Clark County comes from other parts of the US, Mexico, South America and other Counties. California has been the largest supplier of fresh food, but climate change is impacting what they can grow successfully. Mexico is

now a huge supplier to the US. Distance decreases nutritional value and freshness, and it makes us dependent on transportation and many other factors that are out of our control. Farm income is down because a once thriving agricultural economy lost its infrastructure and support. We have not invested in agriculture. We have an active Port that could be, but is not, transporting our agricultural goods to markets. There is demand for local food, but the options for finding it are limited. We can reinvent our local food system and invest in agriculture, but we can't do if the agricultural land is under houses, warehouses, storage units and parking lots. If we re-invest in local agriculture, we can increase our food security. To have local food in the future, we need to save all agricultural land now.  
Thank you.



© 2026 Clark County Washington