

**From:** [Rebecca Messinger](#)  
**To:** [Sue Marshall](#); [Glen Yung](#); [Michelle Belkot](#); [Wil Fuentes](#); [Matt Little](#)  
**Cc:** [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments re: Preferred Alternative  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2026 8:40:05 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Please see the comments below from Jim Byrne. Thank you!



**Rebecca Messinger**  
Clerk to the Council  
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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**From:** Jim Byrne <[byrnejim7@gmail.com](mailto:byrnejim7@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2026 4:47 PM  
**To:** Rebecca Messinger <[Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:**

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Rebecca,

Here are my comments on the preferred Alternative. Will you please pass them along to the councilors. Thanks as always.

I am Jim Byrne and I live in Ridgefield. I support Alternative 1. I would ask you to recall the Joint Planning Commission and Council meeting on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and the majority support for this alternative. This reflects the county's previous decisions that **all** forecasted growth for housing, population, and employment can be accommodated within current UGAs. There is **no legal reason** to expand UGAs.

Alt.1 retains prime agricultural lands; protects farms and related jobs; provides local food security; allows us to be better prepared for emergencies; and creates climate resilience. Clark County already has decided no UGA expansions are needed to accommodate projected jobs and growth. UGA expansions will not guarantee more affordable housing. Hundreds of acres will be paved over and gone forever.

Ridgefield, La Center and Battle Ground's proposed expansions would eliminate hundreds of acres of Ag-quality rural lands identified in the Agricultural Lands Study. These cities currently have available land to build upon.

Ag lands must not be de-designated. To use encroaching development as a justification to de-designate land, will continue to deplete agricultural land, which goes against the conservation purpose of the agricultural designation. Just as our residents need housing and jobs, they also need food. The Council should honor the [recommendations of the Agricultural Advisory Commission](#), which voted to maintain all existing agricultural designations and requested a moratorium on upzoning of lands that meet the legal criteria for agricultural designation.

Clark County must match the City of Vancouver's greenhouse gas Emissions Goals. Recommendations made by the Clark County Climate Community Advisory Group (CAG) will be moot, without an explicit greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal. We are in the midst of a climate emergency. We need to reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by focusing growth into existing cities and towns because they allow shorter automobile trips and encourage walking, bicycling, and transit use thereby reducing per capita miles

A transfer of development rights program cannot be used as an excuse to expand urban growth areas or de-designate agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance. Interlocal agreements between the County and a city or cities also cannot be used as an excuse to expand urban growth areas or de-designate agricultural lands.

Thank you.

Jim Byrne