

From: [webmaster](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Council Hearing Public Comment
Date: Monday, April 27, 2026 6:06:13 PM

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 - 6:06 PM

Name

Jude Wait

Phone Number

[707-223-0848](tel:707-223-0848)

Email Address

wellsavellc@gmail.com

Subject

CLARK45 Testimony to Planning Commission

Date of Hearing

Mon, 04/27/2026

Comment

It's advised and experienced that public testimony requires repeating.

Herein are comments submitted to the Planning Commission-Council Joint public hearing.

Therefore:

Please take a moment to consider the perspectives of those that may not be available to provide testimony for the public record in this venue..

They might include:

1-- Non-human: Fish, Wildlife, Pollinator species & Migratory species;

- Beneficial insects for Agriculture

2- Nearly 8000 farm operators and farm workers in Clark County on More than 1900 "farms" on more than 56,000 acres (2022 Census of Ag)

3- Nearly 2000 people providing feedback on the Climate Change Planning Project, 75 engagement activities by the 15 Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) member groups

4- Current and future generations of children

Establish tangible "Right to Food" policy and practice

Fully support the Climate Element goals and policies, and interrelated chapters

5- Cumulative long term impacts already suffered, needing better mitigation, the people and farms that relocated, species decline, soil loss, and fragmentation;

--Collective Wisdom to ensure a healthier, equitable, climate resilient future.

Principles of Preferred Alternative

ONE - No net increase in impervious surfaces

Mitigate any additional urbanization by de-compaction, planting, reclamation

Learn from other “Depave” initiatives for developed areas

Clark County is dependent on groundwater for 95% of our drinking water, declared “Sole Source” by U.S. EPA (2006).

Ensure True groundwater recharge FREE of toxins

TWO -- No net decrease in vegetative cover, biodiversity, or potential habitat connectivity and dispersal corridors

--Conserve and enhance current and potential habitat;

--Restore already degraded and urbanized areas

--Plant native species and create pollinator habitat

THREE - No Loss of farmland or rural land with farming potential (past, present, future).

See Staff recommendations, Ag Commission report, hundreds of farmer survey results, public comments, data...

WHY

1- Urbanization disrupts geo-hydrologic processes, pollutes water resources, increases flooding, undermines infrastructure, and impacts vulnerable community members.

Clark2045 needs to ensure significantly improved water resource monitoring, protection, and mitigation practices to be scientifically sound

2- Crisis is opportunity: Turn Clark County’s failure to ensure social and environmental sustainability into a future success story of equitable community resilience.

a-Alternative, innovative, and restorative approaches are needed.

b- Use the unmitigated sprawl and fragmentation as an opportunity to maximize community resilience

--Turn lawns into meadows, Recreate the Watershed Alliance

--Value and improve Biodiversity and Connectivity

c-Value “Ecosystem Services” provided by landscapes that maintain or develop rural features,

d-Increase livable, bikeable, walkable, safe, non-toxic neighborhoods

3. Planning and planting for biodiversity in Urban, suburban, corridors, and interface

Now is the time to protect farmland and support farms, and reverse the adverse historic trend of marginalizing farming and food security.

--Farmer quote: “ I feel like we need to defend farms from having to accommodate legislated [policy] by people who don't work or understand how farms work... There is no protection for farms ... but farms disappear into parking lots regularly. ...the knowledge [bases] that exists on these farms is the last of its kind. ”

--Farmer quote:

“We are not forcing or even suggesting to developers when making large complexes to also incorporate food in their landscaping or to require leaving space for community gardens.

We need less modifications [restrictions] for farmers and more specifications for development that protects and honors the land that we continue to say out loud that we have stolen from the Native people and we are still doing nothing to give respect back to that land except to continue to take it from the people who are giving it respect..”

***Urban biodiversity benefits include more resilient farms and local food:

*More trees, healthier watersheds, resilient waterways

*Result from Climate equity actions, Urban Forest Planning

* Follow Climate Resiliency goals and policies

* Learn from Denver, Colorado’s Urban Ecology Focus Areas and other Urban Biodiversity examples

* Environmental Justice for urban neighborhoods

- **Multiple ecosystem services need restoring – native plants help
 - * Shade and urban heat island mitigation; Structural stability of landscapes
 - * Stream Bed and bank erosion resistivity, sediment filtration
 - * Rainwater Interception and groundwater recharge
 - **PLANTS provide opportunities for::
 - * Nutrients uptake; Pollutant processing and bioremediation
 - * Food for all; Shelter for wildlife, Habitat connectivity
- Air quality improvement; Carbon sequestration



© 2026 Clark County Washington