From: Jeffrey Delapena
To: Angie Merrill
Cc: Oliver Orjiako; Jose Alvarez
Subject: FW: City Testimony for Aug. 20th PC Hearing
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 4:00:00 PM
Attachments: image005.png
image006.png
image007.png
image008.png
image009.png
August 20 Angie Testimony.docx

Good day, Angie,

Thank you for submitting the City of La Center's comments ahead of tonight's Public Hearing for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update.

These comments will be added to the Index of Record and brought to the attention of the Planning Commission.

Best regards,

Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4558

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Good day, Sam,

Thank you for submitting the City of Battle Ground's comments ahead of tonight's Public Hearing for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update.

These comments will be added to the Index of Record and brought to the attention of the Planning Commission.

Best regards,

Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4558

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From: Angie Merrill <amerrill@ci.lacenter.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2026 3:57 PM
To: Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: RE: City Testimony for Aug. 20th PC Hearing

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Hi Jeff,

Please see the attached testimony for the City of La Center for this evening's hearing. I will be in person to give testimony.

Thank you,

Angie Merrill
Community Development
Land Use Planner
210 E 4th Street La Center, WA 98629
360.263.3654
amerrill@ci.lacenter.wa.us

CITY OF LA CENTER

From: Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 4:35 PM
To: Alan Peters <apeters@cityofcamas.us>; Egurrola, Alec <alec.egurrola@wsp.com>; Amanda Lomasney <alomasney@cowlitz.org>; Amy Koski <Amy.Koski@clark.wa.gov>; Amy Wooten <Amy.Wooten@clark.wa.gov>; Angie Merrill <amerrill@ci.lacenter.wa.us>; Bart Catching <Bart.Catching@clark.wa.gov>; Ben Han <benh@berkconsulting.com>; Brittney Salter <Brittney.Salter@dfw.wa.gov>; Bryan Snodgrass-Vancouver <Bryan.Snodgrass@cityofvancouver.us>; Chad Eiken-Vancouver <Chad.Eiken@cityofvancouver.us>; Claire Lust <Claire.Lust@ridgefieldwa.us>; David Kuhnhausen <David.Kuhnhausen@clark.wa.gov>; Dean Reynolds <dreynolds@cowlitz.org>; Devon Jackson <devin@jacksoncivil.com>; Domenic Martinelli <domenic.martinelli@cityofvancouver.us>; Garrett Ginter <Garrett.Ginter@clark.wa.gov>; Harrison Husting <Harrison.Husting@clark.wa.gov>; Heath Henderson <HHenderson@crwwd.com>; Jenna Kay <Jenna.Kay@clark.wa.gov>; Jesse Manley <Jesse.Manley@clark.wa.gov>; Jessica Herceg <jherceg@dowl.com>; Jodi Mescher <Jodi.Mescher@wsp.com>; Jordan Hamann <Jordan.Hamann@rtc.wa.gov>; Judith Perez Keniston <Judith.Perez@rtc.wa.gov>; Julia Cruz-Jones <Julia.Cruz-Jones@rtc.wa.gov>; Kingston Chirwa <kchirwa@cowlitz.org>; Kris Swanson <Kris.Swanson@cityofbg.org>; Lee Knottnerus-Ridgefield <lee.knottnerus@ci.ridgefield.wa.us>; Les MacDonald <lmacdonald@crwwd.com>; Lori Severino <Lori.Severino@cityofvancouver.us>; Mark (RTC) Harrington <Mark.Harrington@rtc.wa.gov>; Matt Ransom <Matt.Ransom@rtc.wa.gov>; Michael Sallis <Michael.Sallis@clark.wa.gov>; Mitch Kneipp <Mitch.Kneipp@cityofwashougal.us>; Paul Dennis <paul@jacksoncivil.com>; Paul Newman <Paul.Newman@clark.wa.gov>; Rebecca Kenedy <rebecca.kennedy@cityofvancouver.us>; Robert Maul-Camas <rmaul@cityofcamas.us>; Sam Crummett-Battle Ground <sam.crummett@cityofbg.org>; Scott Keillor <scott.keillor@wsp.com>; Stefanie Hindmarch <Stefanie@berkconsulting.com>; Susan Ellinger <Susan.Ellinger@clark.wa.gov>; Suzan Poisner <Suzan.Poisner@clark.wa.gov>; Tammy Fleet <tfleet@cowlitz.org>; Taylor Eidt <taylor.eidt@c-tran.org>; Tom Esteb <pwd@townofyacolt.com>; Tracy Coleman <tcoleman@ci.lacenter.wa.us>; Travis Goddard-Woodland <goddardt@ci.woodland.wa.us>
Cc: Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: City Testimony for Aug. 20th PC Hearing

Good afternoon, City/County Planners,

After discussion with the Chair of the Planning Commission, for Thursday evening's Planning Commission Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan Update, during the cities' testimony each jurisdiction will be limited to five minutes in order to accommodate all

members of the public who wish to provide testimony.

Please reach out if there are any questions.

Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4558

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August 20, 2026

Good evening, Chair and members of the Planning Commission.

My name is Angie Merrill, and I'm here tonight on behalf of the City of La Center. I'd first like to note that we're sorry Mayor Stroben could not be here this evening, as he is out of town.

The City of La Center would like to express its support for exploring and implementing a Transfer of Development Rights, or TDR, program for agricultural lands.

As La Center has worked through its Comprehensive Plan update, our City leaders and staff have repeatedly engaged with residents and stakeholders to understand their vision for our community. We have consistently heard three important priorities: maintaining the small-town charm and feel of downtown La Center, focusing growth near the I-5 Junction where transportation and infrastructure can support it, and creating family-wage jobs so La Center does not become simply a bedroom community.

Our City Council unanimously adopted a preferred alternative that reflects those priorities, including targeted growth around I-5, as well as the Downtown and Timmen's Landing subarea plans. We believe this approach provides opportunities for needed housing and employment while preserving the character that makes La Center special.

La Center understands and supports the importance of preserving productive agricultural lands. At the same time, we believe we need innovative tools that allow us to accomplish both goals: protecting valuable agricultural land while giving smaller cities the ability to accommodate responsible growth.

That is why we believe a TDR program can be a true win-win. It can provide agricultural landowners with financial resources to continue farming while allowing development capacity to be directed toward appropriate areas for growth.

The small-town character of La Center is one of the very reasons people choose to live, work, and invest in our community. We want to preserve that character while planning responsibly for the future.

We appreciate the County's consideration of a TDR program and encourage the Planning Commission to support this innovative approach to balancing agricultural preservation with the growth needs of Clark County's smaller cities.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.

Angie Merrill, Planner

City of La Center