From: Rebecca Messinger
To: Cnty 2025 Comp Plan
Subject: FW: Proposal to initiate an Ag Preservation Program
Date: Monday, September 21, 2026 8:17:29 AM
Attachments: Policy request for your consideration.docx
image001.png

Good morning,

Please see the below email and attachment submitted by Ann Foster.

Thank you!
Rebecca

Rebecca Messinger
Clerk to the Council
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Phone: 564-397-4305
Email: Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov

From: Ann Foster <annfoster5093@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 2:41 PM
To: Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Michael Rivera <chefmichaelrivera81@gmail.com>; Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>; Rebecca Messinger <Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Proposal to initiate an Ag Preservation Program

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Councilors:
Over the last few months, I have submitted, twice, a

proposal which strongly recommends that Clark County adopt a policy that puts into place farmland protection - following the completion of the 2025 Comp Plan Update. That recommendation is attached below. You'll note that its original date is April of this year.

Although I have received a response from only one of the Councilors (thank you, Councilor Fuentes), I continue to propose the simple plan, as it has received wide support from the community.

The first paragraph reads:

> In order to coordinate effective land use plans with development, Clark County shall implement a county-wide Farmland Protection program whose objective shall remain the perpetual conservation and protection of designated agricultural resource land Clark County-wide.

I urge you to consider this recommendation as you continue to complete the Plan Update.

Best,
Ann Foster
360-600-0100
La Center

Policy request for your consideration

11 messages

Ann Foster <annfoster5093@gmail.com> Mon, Apr 20, 2026 at 7:16 PM
To: Sue Marshall <sue.marshall@clark.wa.gov>, Glen Yung <glen.yung@clark.wa.gov>, "michelle.belkot@clark.WA.Gov" <michelle.belkot@clark.wa.gov>, Matt Little <matt.little@clark.wa.gov>, "wil.fuentes@clark.WA.Gov" <Wil.fuentes@clark.wa.gov>, Kathleen Otto <kathleen.otto@clark.wa.gov>, "Orjiako, Oliver" <oliver.orjiako@clark.wa.gov>, Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>

Dear Council Chair Marshall, Councilor Yung, Councilor Belkot, Councilor Fuentes, Councilor Little, County Manager Otto, Community Planning Director Orjiako and Sr. Planner Alvarez:

As part of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update, Friends of Clark County is requesting your consideration of the following policy:

In order to coordinate effective land use plans with development, Clark County shall implement a county-wide Farmland Protection program whose objective shall remain the perpetual conservation and protection of designated agricultural resource land Clark County-wide.

A **Farmland Protection Program such as: a** Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), a Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), a farmland mitigation (exchange) program, or similar tools, shall include the following elements:

- Begin initial design and development as soon as practicable following the completion of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update, but no later than 12 months following the completion of the Update.

- One of the main purposes of the Farmland Protection Program is to guide the identification of “sender” and “receiver” areas for the entire county. Therefore, the County will not engage in any de-designation process as part of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update.

- Charging the Agricultural Advisory Commission with the task of creating a parallel and concomitant process that is focused on developing, and adopting, a methodology to designate additional Agricultural Lands of Long Term Commercial Significance identified by the recent County-Wide Agricultural Lands Resource Study.

- The Farmland Protection Program is to be initiated by the county and include such cities interested in implementing this program, and who have signed an interlocal agreement with Clark County, and shall also include input from special districts such as the Agricultural Advisory Commission, the Clark Conservation District and the Columbia Land Trust.

- The establishment of a working advisory team to identify specific goals and scope, project timeline, and community outreach strategies.

- Begin and remain within Clark County's Community Planning Department.

Transfer Development Rights programs, or the framework for such programs, have been used in 8 other counties and 21 cities within Washington State. These counties are King (a clear success story), Whatcom, Kitsap, Thurston, Pierce, Kittitas, Snohomish and Skagit. Worth noting here:

> Snohomish County: (DP-32) Jurisdictions should encourage the use of transfer of development rights (TDR), purchase of development rights, and conservation incentives. The objective is to focus growth in the Urban Growth Areas while lessening development pressure on rural and resource areas. Specific steps regarding TDR's include:
> a. Designating additional TDR sending and receiving areas;
> b. Developing zoning incentives to use TDR in urban areas not already designated as receiving areas;
> c. Coordinating efforts to establish a regional TDR program; and
> d. Ensuring that an area designated as a TDR receiving area by the County remains a receiving area after annexation or that the city provides an equivalent capacity for receiving TDR certificates elsewhere in the city when the County and the affected cities have adopted an interlocal agreement addressing the TDR program.