

From: "Rebecca Boonstra" <rebeccaboonstra@verizon.net>
To: "Matt Aamot" <maamot@co.whatcom.wa.us>
CC: "Barbara Brenner" <bbrenner@co.whatcom.wa.us>, "Carl Weimer" <carl@pstru...>
Date: 2/17/2009 9:27 AM
Subject: Comment from Foothills Residents & Landowners
Attachments: GMCC EIS Scoping Memorandum.pdf

Dear Matt,

Attached please find public comment on the 10 year UGA review from Foothills Residents & Landowners.

Thank you,

Rebecca Boonstra

MEMORANDUM

To: **Matt Aamot, Senior Planner**
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
5280 Northwest Dr Bellingham, WA 98226

From: **Foothills Area Residents/Landowners**
Russ Angus, Christopher Babin, Darin Barry, Rebecca Boonstra, Darrell K. Bornstein Jr., Phil Cloward, Richard Dawson, Linda Dorsett, Carolyn Ferrer, Gary Gehling, Jack Hovenier, Bill Isenhardt, Carole MacDonald, Norm Otto, Norma Otto, Lou Piotrowski, Joyce Sappington, Bill Snyder, Richard Banel, Rob Staveland, Kevein Zender

Date: 2/17/2009

Re: Whatcom County's 10 Year UGA Review – Preliminary EIS Scoping Comments

The following comments (See Document Index) pertaining to land use, population, economics and plans and policies are being submitted to ensure adequate review and incorporation of these issues as they pertain to the Columbia Valley Urban Growth Area.

It has been noted that the current land supply analysis suggests that this UGA in particular requires additional land to accommodate its historical share of population during this planning period.

The existing Draft Foothills Subarea Plan, although still pending adoption, anticipates growth at levels comparable to the historical share scenario and suggests policies and land use guidelines to accommodate this projected growth. This document should form the framework for any future allocation of growth to this UGA.

The Foothills Subarea Plan would reduce the size of this UGA and still accommodate the projected population increase of 3200 through infill and increased density, with an emphasis on planning strategies consistent with the principles of new urbanism and smart growth.

It has also been noted that in the preliminary public participation portion of the 2031 process, that a majority of Whatcom County residents preferred to

accommodate growth in the small cities and small unincorporated areas such as the Columbia Valley UGA to stimulate and strengthen economic development in these areas and reduce dependency upon Bellingham and the automobile for jobs and services.

There is a compelling level of support for additional growth and capital facilities investment in the Columbia Valley UGA as referenced in the public record citations and the Draft Foothills Subarea Plan Update (October 2007) which is incorporated herein by reference and currently pending adoption by the Whatcom County Council.

The EIS should study Whatcom County UGA's as they exist today in the current Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan.

Consideration of the Columbia Valley UGA as it currently exists or as envisioned in the Foothills Subarea Plan would be suitable under either scenario (No Action, X, or Y). There should be no inclusion of Alternatives contemplating the Rural Element as this is a separate issue and should remain outside of the scope of this EIS. The focus is on Urban Lands.

We support adopting the population projection adopted by the GMCC of 60,490 **minimum** new residents or 251,490 residents by the end of the planning period 2031.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and to participate in Whatcom County's 10 year UGA review process. The following public documents pertaining to the Columbia Valley and Foothills Subarea Plan are incorporated herein by reference as part of our public comment on this EIS scoping process

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August 18, 2008	**Foothills Residents /Landowners (22 Signatories) Foothills Subarea Plan DSEIS Comments	6
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