

Kate Koch - 2031 EIS Scope of Work

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Subject: 2031 EIS Scope of Work
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February 18, 2009

From: Kathy Berg, Birch Bay

RE: Whatcom 2031 EIS Scope of Work

Thank you for this opportunity to comment, I have 5 things to say at this point:

- Thank you so very much for the **Open House** on this subject in the rotunda of the Court House yesterday afternoon. It was extremely helpful to have live, knowledgeable people to discuss this with, to answer questions and help me figure out what this is all about and what you want/need from the public. And I feel like I was actually heard as well.
- **Garbage in, garbage out** so it is important to get it right. Thank you to staffers Kate and Gary for their visit to Birch Bay, listening to and hearing what the community had to say and then following up on what they heard, especially regarding the accuracy of the Land Capacity Analysis maps.
- **UGA vs. LAMIRDS or Both?** I will appreciate seeing an informed, thoughtful, reasoned examination of this issue. Solving the Rural AND city/UGA parts of the puzzle are inextricably intertwined.
- **Make the No Action alternative actually work** as intended with appropriate policies/strategies suggestions. I think the vision and goals are OK but we know that it has failed from the Rural aspect, how can it be fixed? How can appropriate housing choices be promoted where we want them to go?
- **Concurrency for fire districts** MUST be addressed and solved, once and for all. The Birch Bay UGA has experienced a de facto moratorium on growth for 2-years now while rural growth has continued apace and the issue has already arisen for the Columbia Valley UGA.

Your consideration in these matters is greatly appreciated.