

From: Council
To: Blystone, Kate; Boxx, Becky; Council Members; Rebecca Craven
Date: 11/2/2009 8:55 AM
Subject: Fwd: Lynden - Propose UGA expansion

>>> <CANTHOLT@aol.com> 11/1/2009 12:11 PM >>>

I would urge the Council not support Lynden's proposed expansion of their UGA to accommodate estimated growth through 2029.

I would not support Lynden's proposed expansion because:

1. As proposed it would encompass prime agricultural land, land that is some of the best in the nation (in spite of occasional winter flooding).
2. Lynden has not adequately considered alternatives to horizontal expansion such as increasing density, or expansion to the west.
3. The Department of Ecology and the Lummi Nation both believe that Lynden does not have the "water" to accommodate expansion let alone urban expansion as proposed.
4. And, it is not clear to me why Lynden is expected to accommodate 9.3 percent of the projected county growth when other areas, e.g., Bellingham, west of I - 5, etc., might better accommodate that growth. Especially when horizontal expansion of Lynden would take up prime agricultural land.

I am not against growth in Lynden per se. It is just that Lynden needs to be more creative in considering alternatives to the usual horizontal growth patterns of the past. Until that is done, it seems to me to be prudent not to approve Lynden's proposal for expansion of its UGA. Perhaps at a latter date the circumstance may change in such a way that Lynden's proposal would gain sufficient credibility. If so, then at that time could not expansion of the UGA be agreed to?

The above is my personal view - not that of any organization or committee I might be associated with.

Thank you and regards,

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