

Mark Hubert/Carol Landt
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Bellingham, Wa. 98226

9 Dec. 2008

Mr. David Stalheim, & Mr. Martin Blackman
Whatcom County
Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, Wa. 98226

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**LONG RANGE
PLANNING DIVISION**

Dear Mr. Stalheim and Mr. Blackman,

We are appreciative of the fact Whatcom County has published a Determination of Significance regarding the 2007 Draft Foothills Subarea Plan. There are a few comments we would like to make in regards to this new status.

We are finding it difficult to understand, given the years spent on the Foothills Subarea Plan by the citizens, why the County is trying to slide by with a SEIS instead of a new updated EIS. It is important to acknowledge the changes in law that has occurred since 1994, when the original EIS was researched and written.

Secondly, it seems the current schedule of public comment on the SEIS/EIS and the Foothills Subarea Plan leads one to infer the County isn't really interested in hearing what the good folks of the Foothills have to say about these documents in any length. We would like to see separate Public Hearings, one hearing on the SEIS/EIS, and one hearing on the 2007 Draft Foothills Subarea Plan.

In closing, we would like to see Whatcom County withdraw the present Determination of Significance. We strongly urge you to issue a New Determination of Significance, which will require a full EIS. This would allow the use of the best currently available science reflecting this subarea, covering environmental laws and traffic studies.

Sincerely

Mark Hubert / Carol Landt