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Whatcom County P&DS

Susan Morgan
1681 Peaceful Valley Drive
Maple Falls, WA 98266

January 8, 2008

David Stalheim, Director
Whatcom County Planning and
Development Services Dept.
Northwest Annex
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226-6907

Martin Blackman, Land Use Supervisor-SEPA
Whatcom County Planning and
Development Services Dept.
Northwest Annex
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226-6907

RE: SEP 07-181; 2007 Draft Foothills Subarea Plan

Dear Mr. Stalheim and Mr. Blackman:

Thank you for this opportunity to urge Whatcom County Planning and Development Services to require a full EIS and conduct full scoping that will address future development and resulting impact to the foothills of Whatcom County.

I was gratified to learn that the PDS recognized the likelihood of significant adverse impacts on the environment by the proposed 2007 Draft Foothills Subarea Plan, but this assessment does not go far enough.

Reliance on previous or present reports and plans is ill advised and flawed. The 1996 FEIS is outdated and does not provide adequate detail for review, and of course the 1994 Existing Conditions Report is equally out of date. Further, no EIS has been conducted for the Columbia Valley UGA, an area now experiencing population growth that affects safety, services, and the environment.

I am a resident of Kendall, and my primary concern -- the health and beauty of our environment -- have been given only minimal consideration throughout planning. Higher levels of population growth and large-scale development in this area will cause irreparable environmental damage and will ruin the natural, rural character of our beautiful foothills unless great care is taken in planning and then carried out on the ground.

This won't happen without the legal foundation of a full EIS and a full scoping process. Our highly permeable soils, already infiltrated in some areas, will become even more saturated and problematic. An increase in air pollution from woodstoves and brush

burning will cause health problems. A host of water quality and quantity issues, such the drawdown of aquifers and the destruction of wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat, will transform our foothills into an environmentally degraded and unsightly, sprawling suburban area.

I encourage PDS to engage in sound environmental planning that serves to protect the natural landscape of the foothills, the quality of life for its citizens, and the interests of greater Whatcom County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Morgan".

Susan Morgan, PhD