

September 9th, 2008

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SEP 10 2008

LONG RANGE  
PLANNING DIVISION

David Stalheim, Director  
Matt Aamot, Senior Planner  
Development Services Department  
Northwest Annex  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226-6907

RE: SEP 07-181; 2007 SEIS DRAFT for Foothills Sub-area Plan

I am a concerned citizen residing in the Columbia Valley. I have been interested in the Sub-area plan process for the past two years.

I have reviewed the recent SEIS draft and I have several concerns regarding the content that addresses the impact on Kendall Creek, Kendall Lake and Sprague Lake. You state that "one could" model Kendall creek for impact on water quality as well as quantity. This should be mandatory, not elective. The lakes and creeks in this area are an important ecological concern as they rise and lower with the water level in the aquifer. With the additional proposed growth, and drawdown on the aquifer, I have serious concern regarding the future of the wildlife in this area. The area serves as breeding ground for Heron, several varieties of duck, as well as Trumpeter swans that winter in the area. Eagles are frequenting the area as well as the Otter.

The SEIS suggests that Water District 19 and 13 are "collaborating" concerning future plans for the water and sewer quality in the area. This is simply inaccurate! At the recent Water District #13 meeting on the August 26, the inner tie proposal by water district #19 Commissioners was put on hold until 2009. One Commissioner stated that before he would even consider the proposal he would request that an Engineer—acting in the interest of Water District #13— would be involved in the feasibility study process. He further commented that the opinion and conclusions regarding the feasibility of the inner tie were obviously favorable to Water District #19, the authors of the inner tie proposal.

In my opinion, and with some knowledge of the current opinions of at least two Commissioners on an inner tie, it will never happen unless the ratepayers in Water District #13 are falsely led to believe certain presentations that are deceitful and deliberately presented to encourage massive development in the area. I have been informed that Water District #19 has \$4.5 million dollars in outstanding debt and, by your SEIS draft...significant water quality problems! I am reasonably certain that one would not find very many ratepayers in Water District #13 who would agree to accept all of the liability that would occur by joining the Districts.

The SEIS also suggests that there is collaboration on a sewer agreement between the Districts. This again is simply inaccurate! There is a letter from the engineering firm that represents Water District #19 (Wilson Engineering) that encourages Commissioners in Water District #13 to consider joining both Districts. Although Water District #13 Commissioners received a copy of the letter there have been no Board discussions or any action whatsoever! The intent of the Wilson letter is pretty clear; it only addresses that impact on the zoning of the proposed Industrial area. This is not a good reason to cause such liability to the ratepayers of Water District #13 by joining Districts.

Water District #19 is a State accredited Sewer and Water District. If the Commissioners or ratepayers of that District are so insistent on increasing the UGA size, then they should consider establishing a sewer treatment facility.

Mr. Stalheim and Mr. Aamot, there are areas in Whatcom County that should not be subject to massive growth and the Columbia Valley is certainly one of them. I advocate for option 3

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leroy W. Still". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leroy Still  
742 Sprague Valley Dr  
Maple Falls, WA 98266  
360 599 1601