

RECEIVED

SEP 15 2008

LONG RANGE
PLANNING DIVISION

David Stalheim
Director, Whatcom Planning and Development Services

For the public record, written comment on the Draft SEIS

It was a disappointment to see that PDS chose to enter the political Arena and consider an alternative in the environmental statement that is counter productive to the planning process.

A foundation of negotiation is based on people finding mutual ground and compromise. However political negotiation does not work on the same principles or similar foundation in that it may bring people together who are immune to the rules of engagement or have little or no interest in finding mutual ground or solutions.

The fallacy and fault in believing all problems can be solved through diligent negotiation hinges on: (1) both parties having as much to lose as they have to win; (2) are negotiating in good faith and (3) committed to solving the problem. However such reasoning only works when everyone in the process conducts themselves in an honorable manner, history unfortunately has shown more often than not, honorable agreements only work when everyone chooses to be honorable.

I do not believe alternative #3 is either honorable or reasonable and should not be considered in light of previous legal support of the UGA.

The best way to maintain rural character as addressed in the draft Subarea plan is to keep population densities within the areas where they have developed in the past. Urbanization of the area in the Columbia Valley began over 35 years ago and has continued and changed in character. This is also true at Kendall (Black Mtn. Ranch), Maple Falls (The Glen and Cascade West), and Glacier with the sites of (Snowwater, Snowline, and Mount Baker Rim). In addition Glacier Springs between Maple Falls and Glacier fits into this same category.

Growth is not accelerating it is already here and needs to be addressed not ignored or confused by a 3rd alternative that was included for political reasons.

Aquifer recharge data for the Columbia Valley is questionable. The draft states that precipitation averages 62" over the last 50 years. I am aware and have access to precipitation records taken in the Columbia Valley that average 82" precipitation in the form of rainfall and another 32" in the form of snowfall. These averages apply over the last 20 years.

It is also stated that Kendall Creek dries up one in four years. At what location? In past recollection it was dry at the Kendall Creek crossing on the Mount Baker Highway only twice in the last twenty years.

In a different perspective it occasionally went dry before the 1970's mostly because of natural events or diversions.

It is also important to identify the aquifers we are dealing with. The Columbia Valley aquifer is separate and does not join the Northfork aquifer until below Kendall near Coal Creek.

Potential mitigation of alternative #1, item #6 though necessary should be given an extended time frame of more than 2 years. Inter-Local Agreements and the planning necessary could not be done in that time without impacting present rate payers of both districts.

I favor the first alternative with refinement in the acreage adjustments as proposed in the statement.

Sincerely
Phil Cloward



522 Sprague Valley
Maple Falls, Wa. 98266
September 14, 2008