

From: David Stalheim
To: Matt Aamot
Date: 9/15/2008 8:42 AM
Subject: Fwd: Response to DSEIS - Foothills Subarea Plan

>>> Pete Kremen 9/15/2008 8:19 AM >>>
I'm sending these directly as I don't know how often the PDS email is looked at.

Arden

>>> "Joyce Sappington" <sappi42@earthlink.net> 9/15/2008 8:41 AM >>>

KendallWatch

Community Action Group (<http://www.kendallwatch.us/>)

Veronica Dearden

Kathy Warner

Joyce M. Sappington

To: David Stalheim, Director, Whatcom County Planning and Development Services

Re: Response to DSEIS - Foothills Subarea Plan

The Core Group of KendallWatch wishes to reiterate it's support of the Foothills Subarea Committee's recommendation as presented to planning by the majority.

We have reviewed the DSEIS - Foothills Subarea Plan and the 3 alternatives proposed. It is the consensus of KendallWatch that the only viable alternative is to retain the UGA within the Columbia Valley in order to control growth and provide local services, shopping and jobs for it's residents (Alternative 1). All other alternatives would only serve to stagnate or worsen the situations now present within this area.

Over the past 5 years of KendallWatch's existence we have tried to work with Planning on such issues as blight properties. While this department has listened to our concerns, the response has been limited and spotty at best. We are consistently met with excuses that issues are complaint driven and prioritized as such and that there is no real teeth in the enforcement codes.

However, when we read in the local press that a man with cancer living with his family in an RV in Birch Bay is suddenly pushed to the top of the list, it causes us great concern as to the deference with which Planning regards our area and it's ability to appropriately prioritize it's complaint process.

It is the view of KendallWatch that the only way for us to successfully deal with the issues of our area is for the UGA to remain, allowing this community to begin to create retail and light industry which will provide jobs to our residents.

-This is will allow many families to supplement their budgets with an additional income so they can better take care of their properties and provide for their families.

-It will cut down on the additional expense of gas and vehicle wear and tear that many must include in their already tight budgets.

-It will provide a firm foundation for recreating the identification of this area as a "drug ridden haven of crime".

-It will serve to infuse this area with new hope and pride.

-It will revitalize the community and allow us to elevate the standards we set for our

homeowners and landlords and serve to move us to a point where we can address these issues ourselves.

We find the other two alternatives presented in the DSEIS highly unacceptable. Alternative 2 we find to be somewhat short sighted in it's projections for this area. While it is more palatable than Alternative 3, we believe Alternative 1 (to accept the findings of the Subarea Committee) the strongest plan to adequately support this community.

Alternative 3 is completely unacceptable (Rural/LAMRID). It is totally blind to the reality of conditions and population of the Columbia Valley and it's projected growth. It would serve to totally destroy any hope we have a creating a better quality of life for the residents of this area. It would allow for an increase in population without the necessary amenities to support that increase. And it only serves to keep us in a situation where we are continually having to beg the county for assistance and languish as we wait to see what, if any response we receive. It provides no opportunity for us to create a tax base with which to serve the needs of our community, maintaining instead that our hard earned taxed dollars are spread out throughout the rest of the county. It is an alternative that is oppressive at best.

We, the Core Group of KendallWatch, strongly urge this department to accept Alternative 1 (the Foothills Subarea Committee's recommendations as submitted to planning by the majority) of the DSEIS. We also urge you to totally dismiss Alternative 3 (Rural/LAMRID) as wholly unviable and shortsighted. We ask that you allow us the tools we need to strengthen and elevate the quality of life within the Columbia Valley, both for our current and future residents.

From: David Stalheim
To: Matt Aamot
Date: 9/15/2008 9:52 AM
Subject: Fwd: Addendum: KendallWatch reponse to DSEIS - Foothills Subarea Plan

>>> Pete Kremen 9/15/2008 9:27 AM >>>
More...

>>> "Joyce Sappington" <sappi42@earthlink.net> 9/15/2008 10:14 AM >>>

KendallWatch wishes to add one addendum to our response to the DSEIS - Foothills Subarea Plan. We wish to note that we support Alternative 1 of the DSEIS **minus** the mitigation maps. Our support is for the Foothills Subarea Committee's recommendations AS SUBMITTED TO PLANNING BY THE MAJORITY. Any restructuring or altering of this recommendation on the part of Planning is seen as unacceptable and subverts the entire process. We request that Planning remove the mitigation maps from Alternative 1 immediately and allow the process to move forward as it was intended to do.

Regards,
Veronica Dearden
Kathy Warner
Joyce M. Sappington

Joyce Sappington
sappi42@earthlink.net
IN GOD WE TRUST!!