

June 21, 2011

Growth Management Planning Council
c/o King County Department of Development and Environmental Services
Attn: Paul Reitenbach
900 Oakesdale Ave SW
Renton, WA 98057-5212

We're writing in strong opposition to the School Districts' proposal to allow their 19 existing sites in the Rural Area to be developed under existing policies; exempt from the GMPC-proposed restriction on urban-related schools sited in the Rural Area. Seven of the locations are inside or immediately adjacent to our service areas and, if developed according to School District plans, would have the same detrimental effects that the draft policies are intended to prevent.

We're also writing in strong support for the GMPC draft policies on this subject, particularly DP-50, that would limit the appropriate size and scale of facilities sited in the Rural Area and PFS-12 that would prohibit sewer to school facilities in the Rural Area.

We're empathetic to the School Districts' situation, but the sites the Districts are intending to protect in our service areas, if developed with schools and maintenance facilities, will be devastating to the local rural character, rural-related infrastructure, and community plans. The School Districts are not immune from caveat emptor.

It's time that the county-wide policies move in opposition to the Rural Area as a "land bank" for urban-related uses. Please reject the School Districts' proposal and continue on the path you have so boldly chosen to keep the Rural Area rural.

Thank you.

Steve Heister, Chair Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council
Pete Eberle, President, Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council
Nancy Stafford, Chair, Upper Bear Creek Unincorporated Area Council