

Greater Maple Valley Area Council
P.O. Box 101
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December 23, 2011

Paul Reitenbach (Paul.Reitenbach@kingcounty.gov)
Department of Development & Environmental Services (DDES)
900 Oakesdale Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98055-1219

Mr. Reitenbach,

Please consider the comments herein as the official response from the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) regarding the King County Comprehensive Plan Update for 2012 (Update). We first wish to compliment and thank you and your team for the excellent work accomplished in developing the Update.

To guide our comments we have used results from our many years of Citizen Advisory Surveys, which have consistently reinforced a set of Rural Area defining principles: (1) Maintain privacy and rural character; (2) Preserve surrounding environment; (3) Maintain 5-ac minimum zoning for new construction; and (4) Keep urban-type infrastructure to an absolute minimum (e.g., no sewers or public water; "country" roads).

As in the past, we assigned two GMVUAC committees--Growth Management and Transportation--to conduct a detailed review of the Public Review Draft (the Draft) of the Update. These committees established and assigned Subteams to review and comment on particular chapters of the Draft. Guided by the above Rural Area defining principles, our detailed review developed many Questions and Comments. Several sets of Questions were sent to you and you provided many responses from various King County (KC) Departments--thank you. Our Final set of Comments is contained in the attached. These include both Questions left unanswered and any new Questions that arose during our final reviews. Although our review was broader, our Questions and Comments cover Chapters 3--Rural Area & Natural Resource Lands; 4--Environment; 6--Parks, Open Space, & Cultural Resources; 7--Transportation, and 8--Services, Facilities, & Utilities, as well as Appendix--Area Zoning Studies.

As you and the KC Departments review our detailed Comments, please pay particular attention to our specific concerns in the following policy areas:

1. Placement of urban Schools and other urban Facilities in the Rural Area;
2. Environmental habitat protection;
3. Park maintenance;
4. Travel forecasting;
5. Transportation Concurrency;
6. Water systems; and

7. Area Zoning Studies (particularly, Pacific Raceways).

We will continue to monitor the progress of the Update into 2012 and request you provide us with any subsequent markups for review. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steve Hiester (gmvac_chair@hotmail.com)
Chairman, Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council

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