

## Greater Maple Valley Area Council

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We are writing to express deep concerns with the 2012 King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) Update completed and approved by the King County Council on December 3, 2012. Specifically, we take issue with the last-minute Amendment to allow Reserve Silica to bring forth a "Demonstration Project" as early as this year, through amended Policy I-203, without waiting for the next KCCP major 4-year update in 2016. This sets a precedent by allowing major updates, in effect, a UGB change, outside the four-year major update cycle.

Major zoning changes could now occur without adequate time for public input from those most affected. In the case of Reserve Silica, this is being done irrespective of the well-voiced opinions of surrounding landowners, the greater Ravensdale community, the Greater Maple Valley Area Council, many local or concerned organizations, and the general public. This Reserve Silica amendment represents a rezoning of Resource lands to Residential in an area surrounded by the Forest Production District.

Further, Councilwoman Jane Hague, who represents an urban district, prepared the way for a major project--with considerable repercussions--to be proposed for a rural area outside of her jurisdiction. We believe citizens should be represented by their Representative, who should have expertise in the issues and understand the impact of those issues within their district. In the case of Reserve Silica's land in District #9, this would be Councilman Reagan Dunn.

Parties of Record, who had previously orally testified and/or submitted written comments throughout 2012, were not made aware of the final Amendment, proposed on Friday, November 30, 2012, until after the final King County Council vote on the Comprehensive Plan on Monday, December 3, 2012.

The moniker "Demonstration Project" is becoming the vehicle through which developers can bypass standard processes that other individuals and organizations must follow and through which timely public scrutiny and input can often be avoided. "Demonstration Projects" foist ecological, financial, and transportation havoc on local areas and neighborhoods, while those proposing them gain financially, but do not have to suffer the consequences of their "externalized" impacts. "Demonstration Project" also has been used to describe the Pacific Raceways (a.k.a., SIR) industrial expansion in the Rural Area outside of Auburn and the proposed "Sonic's" Arena in the SODO area of Seattle. Now, in the case of Reserve Silica, it is being used to describe a "mining site conversion." It brings home the fact that might and money make right.

Many, if not most, of the written and oral KCCP Update comments on Reserve Silica were completely ignored with no explanation or rationale given by the KC Council. Even the KC Executive's office was ignored.

In conclusion, King County has an excellent, well-designed, methodical, transparent public process to update its Comprehensive Plan. However, in the case of the 2012 KCCP Update, this process was followed for the first 14 months, but altered, in the last 48 hours, in a manner that was not methodical, non-transparent, and denied adequate public exposure. In fact, Reserve Silica was just one of several last-minute changes made, including key zoning changes. One does not go through a long transparent public process to develop policy, then change it at a final King County Council vote. We now consider the process broken and the Public, your customers, no longer trusts it's representatives or the process they have now undermined.

Sincerely,  
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(gmvac\_chair@hotmail.com) Chairman  
Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council

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