

Bob & Kathi Williams
18155 Joy Pl
Burlington, WA 98233
757.0835

March 9, 2009

Margaret Fleek, Planning Director
833 S Spruce St
Burlington, WA 98233

RE: Draft EIS Flood Protection Plan

Dear Ms. Fleek,

We are writing to violently oppose the proposed change to return 30 acres of land within the existing urban growth area to farmland in exchange for removing the land purchased by the Burlington-Edison School District on the corner of Peterson & Pulver roads from farmland classification and adding it to the urban growth area.

When citizen groups meet, at the request of the City, a few years ago to discuss potential changes to the urban growth area and to formulate the concept of the Agricultural Heritage credit program (Kathi was a participant in both efforts) the overwhelming consensus was that farmland west of I-5 and north of Peterson Road should be protected. Any encroachment would ultimately lead to the demise of the agricultural nature area from the Hiway westward to the bay, something that no one wanted to happen.

The School District made the ill advised decision to purchase the property in question in spite of advice not to do so. It is prime farmland and has been (for decades), and continues to be, in active production. To include this proposal as a part of a plan to protect Burlington from flooding is unfathomable. The classification of the land has no impact causing or preventing flooding. It does however, have the frightening potential to make an irreversible negative change our rural/agricultural community.

We respectfully ask the City council, mayor and staff to remain committed to protecting farmland west of I-5, and not move forward with the portion of the plan dealing with the Peterson/Pulver road property. If that does not happen, it will be another example of ignoring the desires of the community and the feedback from citizen groups solicited by the City to study issues like this.

Sincerely,

Bob Williams



Bob & Kathi Williams