

Save Helvetia

From: Cherry Amabisca
13260 NW Bishop Road
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Date: May 25, 2010

To: Council President Bragdon and Metro Councilors

RE: Opposition to Peterkort property changing from Rural Reserves to Urban Reserves

I would like to register my opposition to the change of the 129 acres owned by the Peterkort family from Rural Reserves to Urban Reserves recently approved by the Washington County Board of Commissioners.

A number of citizens have testified in opposition to this action. I'll just summarize some of the arguments against approving this change.

Public comment was never solicited

If this property, as urban reserves, was essential to the success of North Bethany, as Chair Brian now says, why wasn't it called out on the maps for public comment that Metro offered for citizen input through the month of January 2010? The Springville "L", Stafford and other areas that were controversial were shown on the reserves map for public comment. The Peterkort property was not. Now, Washington County, at the urging of the landowners, wants to change its designation at the last minute.

This is not a minor change

129 acres is not what I consider a "minor" adjustment. Why do changes from rural reserves to urban reserves receive approval when farmers in "urban" reserves and "undesignated" do not receive the same consideration?

Creating an isolated urban island is NOT good planning

The 77 acres that are developable are on the far side of the North Bethany urban area - to the north and west of the Rock Creek flood plains. Isolating this 77 acres for urban development will create a tiny island north of the Rock Creek flood plains. This is not good planning. It harms the ecological value of the wildlife habitat for the Roosevelt elk herds and the steelhead that are found here. It increases carbon emissions as that island of people drive in cars to get to far-away amenities.

Will you stand by your principles?

A key principle in Core 4 discussions throughout the Fall of 2009 was the consensus that Rock Creek flood plains serve as an effective natural buffer/urban edge for adjoining farmland and that urbanization and development NOT extend north of the Rock Creek flood plains. For that reason, you, the Core 4 and Washington County Board of Commissioners voted to include the Peterkort property in rural reserves. Now, at the last minute, Washington County finds it more convenient to change its designation to make it easier to accommodate the needs of North Bethany. There are ways to accomplish what is needed and still have this property included in rural reserves. Will you stand by your principles?

For the above reasons, and for other reasons submitted by others, I urge you to deny this request by Washington County and the Peterkort family and retain the designation of this property as "RURAL RESERVES".

Thank you for your consideration.

Cherry Amabisca
Save Helvetia
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