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RECEIVED

MAR 25 2009

PLANNING DEPT.

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

March 23, 2009

Re: draft EIS for Flood Hazard Mitigation and withdrawal of land from
Burlington UGA

Dear Margaret,

We are writing to express our concern regarding the proposed withdrawal of 30 acres of land Northeast of Burlington Hill from the Burlington Urban Growth Area. We are owners of land in this area.

This area has been in the Burlington Urban Growth Area since 1997. It is relatively poor farmland, particularly in comparison with the Pulver Road area parcel that it is proposed to be swapped with to avoid a net loss of farmland. Since 1997, the value of our property has largely been due to its Urban Growth Area status, and it doesn't seem right to take it away 12 years later. This land hasn't been farmed at all for over 5 years, and was formerly leased for cow corn.

The best use of this property near Burlington Hill is for additional residential development. The Burlington School District had been interested in putting a new school in that area until it began to consider the Pulver Road area. In fact, the land near Burlington Hill is still a good site for a new school. While additional land would need to be acquired for such a school, discussions were previously held with developer John Ellis to make such an acquisition. John Ellis' property is now in foreclosure, which should allow

the School District to acquire the land it needs at a bargain price. In addition, sharing the costs of utilities with a residential developer would benefit both the School District and our property.

To summarize, the School District has an opportunity now to solve several problems by pursuing development of a school in the Burlington Hill/Peacock Lane area. Doing so would avoid an unnecessary loss of farmland in the Pulver Road area and preserve the value of property already designated as part of the Burlington UGA. The Burlington Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan should not include any swap of farmland in the Urban Growth Area.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left and appears to be 'Robert Apter'. The second signature is on the right and appears to be 'Brenda Graham Apter'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Apter

Brenda Graham Apter