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Public Comment: Jaqueline Taeschner, turned in at Public
Hearing

LISTENING AGAIN

With courage we find ourselves back again, involved as we citizens should be in our government, and once again we pin our hopes on a process that is to hold the reins of reason already established by Washington State law and emphasized through the outcries of several years ago in grueling hours of the formal hearing engendered by Yarrow Bay and its rushed and arrogant determination to plan the future of our land in its own way. The Hearing Officer spent overtime with all of the data and concerns multitudes of citizens brought up, public records of which can be found. Official recommendations were made after he listened to our outcries.

Yet, what has happened ? Despite our lawful and reasonable planning recommendations and imperatives via the Hearing Officer and Courts, we now have Plat 1A. Despite our Heritage Tree laws and Yarrow Bay's propaganda "vision" supplied by brochure drawings of homes with a few tall and ancient standing Douglas firs about them, there is not one tall Douglas sentinel remaining on the grievous clear-cut of the land to allow some roots of the past—even to give lip service to the past. Expensive brochures Yarrow Bay circulated conspicuously fall flat, much like the land on Plat 1 A that sent waters to flood its neighbors at Horse Shoe Lake. Where were the details of catch basins and water run-offs planned and built to actually avert such tragedy? No tree sentinels remain to alleviate the makings of a flat, desert-like area that echoes the many cheap developments we see springing up around us already such as the one at the intersection of 216th and Covington-Lake Sawyer Roads. Cookie-cutter houses and postage-stamp lots with barely room for ladders between houses in case of fire, these are products of mass greed and our so-called "modern" world. Have we not seen enough of commercial strip mall planning? Evidently not! We do not need to look far to see the shameful clear-cut that has occurred on Yarrow Bay's Plat 1 A lacks needed details and now they plan to "plot out" Plot 2C—even before actual "growth" planned can be built into reality and measured as to traffic pollution, needs for schools and funding, impact on neighbors and water quality, for we see now no infrastructure details. Such plottings and schemes now want the original wetlands meant to buffer the rich environment near Rock Creek to be decreased from the required 225 feet to 110 feet. Do we understand what a small swath this would be—less than the length of a football field in width for the animals in need of food and water, for the trees and all of the animals living near and in them? What about the advised working with wildlife officials and respecting the roosts of eagles once the locations have been detailed? We citizens expected that we would be heard as we asserted our rights as stewards of the land, lawfully, but we have been betrayed.

Recently one of the members of St. Barbara's Church who lives as a close neighbor to the parking lot there found a bear in his back yard, searching for food in the garbage can—as bears will do. Surprise? No. Many of us said that this would happen once we stewards tear down the animal habitat. We are now experiencing more problems with trees being blown down with the winds able to sweep across more of the flattened land. Surprise? No. During the last public hearing citizens predicted all of this would happen while the Hearing Officer listened and made recommendations to counter the dangers that were not being addressed in actual planning detail. Yes, Yarrow Bay made many assurances and promises to attend to details. Now we begin to see that their promises mean little. What is to happen to water quality for the citizens along Green Valley Road? How is all of the added traffic going to be

handled? Plan with Enumclaw with schools? Where are the funds for this even before homes are sold and people move into them? NO LIP-SERVICE ANALYSES! Much more detailed planning is needed for Plat 2C before that part of the land even begins to be raped with clearcut. Black Diamond has no right to go ahead with approval for Plat 2C until lessons from Plat 1A are learned. The City must not approve of Plat 2C until its dependency on the first plat, 1 A, can be understood and observed via what is actually built on that first sorry, flat area. Common sense must prevail. One part needs to be built, finished, and analyzed as to actual impact on traffic, schools, wildlife, water, and neighbors before the next is ok'd to be built *carte blanc*. We want no more tragic and expensive betrayals! We expect this Hearing Officer to listen to our plight as impacted, concerned citizens and to forcefully and effectively alert Yarrow Bay to the need it has to pay attention to all of the recommendations and details necessary to show in its plat planning along every step of the developments it is crafting. **Haste does make waste and we refuse to waste our land, its waters, flora and fauna, its people and its laws.** There can be no haste in approving Yarrow Bay plans of any sort, for we have seen already what their betrayals reap in implementing Plat 1A so far. We resent being duped.

--Jacqueline Paolucci Taeschner 12/11/14