



Kevin COOK <kevin.c.cook@multco.us>

Alexandra P. Clarke - Citizen Concern -- Access Master Plan of April 2016 -- The Multnomah County Comprehensive Plan

Alexandra Clarke <clarkealexandra@ymail.com>
Reply-To: Alexandra Clarke <clarkealexandra@ymail.com>
To: Kevin COOK <kevin.c.cook@multco.us>

Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 8:41 AM



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Dear Kevin Cook, Senior Planner, Multnomah County Dept. of Community Services, Land Use Division:

Please find attached to this email my signed statement (4 pages) regarding my concerns in regard to the Access Master Plan of April 2016 to the Multnomah County Comprehensive Plan.

If you would please include my statement to the county file - Access Master Plan of 2016 to the Multnomah County Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you for your courtesy.

Respectfully,

Alexandra P. Clarke, MAFM

4 attachments



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341K



acpclarke.statement.metro.mcwsd.6.8.18.pg.2.pdf
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Statement of Alexandra Chalmers Powers Clarke, June 8, 2018

My ancestors came to Oregon between the years 1846 and 1870 from Pennsylvania overland on the Oregon Trail to Oregon City, and by ship from Scotland to New York then by rail to San Francisco then up the NW coast the Columbia and Willamette Rivers to Oregon City. They were among the founding families of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties and made significant contributions to the legal and medical professions, the religious, business and farming communities of Oregon. Many family members continue to live and work in the local area today. I have a deep love for this State.

I was born and raised in Portland, Oregon, attended Portland State University; graduated Eastern Oregon University with a B.S. in Liberal Studies and minors in Business and Psychology. I hold a Master's Degree in Accounting and Financial Management. My career has been, and continues to be in financial services. I have been active in our community including: Portland Hearing and Speech League, BOD; Portland Jr. League, Portland Japanese Garden, BOD; The Historic Preservation League of Oregon (Restore Oregon); Portland Neighborhood NET. Currently I am actively involved in the effort protect Portland's water quality, the wildlife corridor between Forest Park and the Coast and fish in our local streams and rivers by preventing harmful activities in the delicate SW/NW Tualatin Hills watersheds of the Willamette River. During the course of my involvement in protecting the SW/NW Tualatin Hills watersheds I have had the opportunity to speak with various Metro planners and scientists and listen to comments they have made.

At a Metro event held at Willamette View Retirement facility last spring, 2017 Metro provided information about mountain bike access into Metro managed properties. Metro shared

printed materials about their new and ongoing projects. At that time, I had a conversation with Jonathon Sol, who I understand to be Metro's chief environmental scientist. We discussed mountain bike access into Metro managed lands in the tri-county area.

I asked Mr. Sol about illegal mountain biking in Metro managed properties, as well as properties where Metro has a partnership interest – most specifically my focus was on the River View Natural Area located in the Collins View Neighborhood area near Lewis and Clark College where I live. Mr. Sol said that Metro understands and accepts as a matter of course that it is a given people will poach, litter, go off trail, build structures and engage in activities that are not approved on the Metro properties they manage. Mr. Sol explained further that it is very difficult to monitor such activities in the Metro areas they manage or enjoy a partnership. In other words, Metro accepts that illegal/unapproved activities will occur on a continuing basis on Metro properties and there are limits to how much of that activity they can control. He said this is true in the majority of park systems no matter who manages them.

In the spring of this year I learned that Metro was seeking the endorsement of the West Multnomah County Water, Soil Conservation District (MCWSCD) for Metro's North Tualatin Mountains Access Master Plan (Access Plan). The MCWSCD Board was generous enough to allow myself and several other opponents to Metro's Access Plan, Mike Lindberg, John Miller and Hank McCurdy, to present some of our observations. Jonathon Sol and Karen Vitkay spoke on behalf of Metro. Ms. Vitkay appears to have a role as a planner for Metro. The MCWSCD Board meeting was in May of this year, 2018. There were several things that Mr. Sol and Karen Vitkay said MCWSCD Board meeting that I believe were inaccurate.

Jonathon Sol stated that Burlington Bottoms and McCarthy Creek are *refugia* for listed

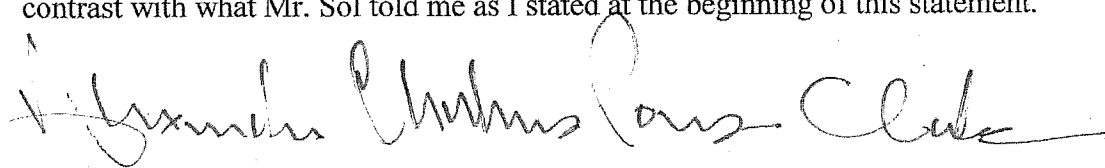
anadromous fish, and McCarthy Creek is not a salmon spawning stream. This statement by Mr. Sol appears to be inaccurate because ODFW has designated McCarthy Creek as a salmon spawning stream.

Karen Vitkay stated that the Access Plan would not cause any serious erosion problem and referred to Carlson Geotechnical reports for support for her claim. She stated that Metro had retained Carlson Geotechnical to do soil erosion studies, and that Carlson Geotechnical bored test holes and found that where Metro wants to put the trails and supporting infrastructure (parking, picnic tables etc.) in the Burlington Creek Forest is suitable from an erosion standpoint. There are two problems with Vitkay's claims. The first is that while Carlson Geotechnical did boring holes, it did not investigate erosion, except for a very small area where Metro plans the parking lot, restroom etc. Instead, the Carlson reports make clear (the report is in two parts, the main report and Appendix B) that it looked at the stability of the site where trailheads, stream crossings and parking lot area would be placed from a seismic and landslide standpoint.

The main report was addressed to Karen Vitkay and stated that it was a "Geological hazard reconnaissance." In its description of the "Scope of the Work" the report stated that Metro asked it to evaluate seismic risks including such things as liquefaction and slope stability. It did not include an evaluation of the potential for erosion from Metro's Access Plan. Appendix B, of the Carlson Geotechnical report states on the first page that it was prepared "for Karen Vitkay." It also states in its conclusion that its "...assignment was limited to the identification and discussion of landslide hazards."

Additionally, Ms. Vitkay stressed in her comments to the MCWSCD Board that Metro was "committed" to monitoring the appropriate use of whatever trails it constructed. This is in

contrast with what Mr. Sol told me as I stated at the beginning of this statement.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alexandra Chalmers Powers Clarke". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Alexandra Chalmers Powers Clarke