

Grant Beck

From: Rebecca Byers [rebecca.byers@alaskaair.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 8:47 AM
To: Grant Beck
Cc: Bob Isom; John Thompson
Subject: Public Comment- City's Water Rights/Yelm Vision Plan

Good Morning,

I am writing to express my concern for the City of Yelm, WA. Please note, I am not someone who is unbalanced in my view of economic growth and development, nor do I think that members of the council are corrupt. I am a citizen who would like to know the truth.

I would like to know if it is true that Yelm's tax revenue will pay for the Golder Water Study. I would also like to know what is required of the City of Yelm, to remain in compliance with the Washington Growth Management Act.

I am concerned that Yelm's development of down town is inconsistent with Yelm's Vision Plan, 1995. Uniqueness, charm, and local businesses contribute to the economic and social vitality of a city because they attract loyal and caring citizens. The fact that local businesses are struggling because of the expansion of chain businesses is an indication that Yelm could become just another bedroom community. From the 1995 Yelm Vision Plan: "The creation of commercial sub-districts...will help Yelm avoid the pitfall of becoming a non-descript, linear strip mall". The plan also includes upgrading the Old Town District, which is being drained because of the superstores and chains. The rapid development, which encourages quick and cheap housing, could cause a population bust of more transient and commuter citizens who will move to Yelm merely because it is cheaper.

I grew up and resided in New England, where citizens' fierce protection of open space, local business, and rural charm, is what keeps the region a very attractive area for tourism, education, and highly skilled employment. I believe these factors also contribute to economic stability, and sustainability.

If appropriate, I request that this e-mail be part of the public comment due May15, in regards to the city's Water Rights and Study.

Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully,
Rebecca Byers