



We Remember



# The Naked Fish

We dare to print the naked truth!

## “TRUST US! WE’RE HERE TO HELP”

### MAJOR MAY VALLEY PROJECT PUT OFF AGAIN



In 1983 King County promised to relieve flooding in May Valley by creating the Surface Water Management Division (renamed Water and Land Resources Division to hide the original intent) of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks. In 1986 they promised to relieve flooding in May Valley when they started collecting surface water management taxes. Taxpayers are over \$200,000,000 poorer and the flooding is worse than ever.

In the fall of 2000, residents of May Valley Environmental Council succeeded in getting a recommendation included in the May Creek Basin Action Plan that addressed, in part, flooding problems in May Valley lying between 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE and S.R 900. That recommendation is as follows:

*Recommendation 5: Reduce flood durations in May Valley by removing flow obstructions from May Creek channel. Types of obstructions most frequently encountered are beaver dams, stream reaches choked with vegetation, and sediment deposits.*

Residents were promised beaver and dam removal in 2001. It didn’t happen, nor did anything else that could be construed as work on Recommendation 5.

On September 8, 2001, King County Executive **Ron Sims** stood on the bank of May Creek during MVEC’s Clean the Ditch Rally and promised \$500,000 dollars to clean the 15,000-foot reach of creek in May Valley. So far he has managed 250 feet at a cost of \$164,000.

After May Valley Environmental Council applied considerable pressure,

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Thinking cannot be carried on without the materials of thought; and the materials of thought are facts, or else assertions that are presented as facts. A mass of details stored up in the mind does not in itself make a thinker; but on the other hand thinking is absolutely impossible without that mass of details. And it is just this latter impossible operation of thinking without the materials of thought which is being advocated by modern pedagogy and is being put into practice only too well by modern students. In the presence of this tendency, we believe that facts and hard work ought again to be allowed to come to their rights: it is impossible to think with an empty mind.

J. Gresham Machen

*The Naked Fish* is published by May Valley Environmental Council (MVEC) a non-profit community group dedicated to sensible environmental management of private property. Articles in *The Naked Fish* cover subjects of concern both to local and national readers. We try to provide environmental information not commonly found in the major media. Articles with by-lines reflect the research, views and opinions of the author which may not reflect positions on the issues adopted by MVEC.

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Subscriptions are \$20 per year.  
MVEC membership is \$40 per year.  
Donations are gladly accepted.



**COLASURDO FARM—SPRING 1986**



**COLASURDO FARM-SPRING 2003**

**The Sensitive Areas Ordinance passed in 1990 has destroyed May Valley but it has taken 10 years—so a new Critical Areas Ordinance has been proposed by DDES to speed up the process!**

### **HUMAN INTEREST STORIES WANTED**

The editors of *The Naked Fish* wish to provide more local interest items in this publication. The items can be either news — births, deaths, marriages, accidents, etc. — or human interest type stories about local residents. Please send anything you think would be of interest to our readership to:

nakedfish@maycreek.com

or

Naked Fish  
15019 SE May Valley Road  
Renton, WA 98059.

## CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE UPDATE

[The following was an oral presentation at a public hearing on the Critical Areas Ordinance draft update that was held at Issaquah High School on January 14. The full draft of the proposed ordinance can be found at <http://www.metrokc.gov/ddes/cao/>.]

**M**y name is Mike Cassidy. I have been trying, for the past five years, to get a permit to build a home on the old Porter homestead [Editor's Note: 35 acres] just west of Enumclaw.

I am very, very well educated—you see, I went to kindergarten. I learned that Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall and had a great fall and, you know, suffered many irreparable fractures! And all of King County and all of the Kings horses, all of the Kings men and all of the bureaucrats couldn't put Humpty back together again—even with the best available science. The development of King County over the past 150 years with its toll on the environment is almost as irreversible as Humpty's condition!

Later in my education I learned about Chicken Little and the problem of the sky falling. You know, Turkey Lurkey told him and he had heard it from Goosey Poosey who had heard it from Ducky Daddle until the whole thing wound up in the scientific literature and formed the basis for federal grants and continuing research.

We have been told that the purpose of this meeting is to inform us about the proposal to "update the codes" so as to make them compliant with a State directive, which is trying to be compliant with a Federal directive. Evidently the Federal government knows how to run things in King County better than the people in King County—especially us peasants out in the countryside!

Later in my life I learned about a place called the Land of Oz where there also was an Emerald City! Between the Emerald City and the great forest of the east (which took up about 65% of the land) lay a place that was unincorporated rural; you see it on the map up there. We can call this area Middle Earth if you want to. The people of Middle Earth (us) are, as you know, incapable of managing our own property and insist on ruining the land with dairies and raising food. The people of Emerald City, of course, are more enlightened and know that all of those products come from supermarkets in various plastic containers. The Middle Earth people also like to pollute the water and kill the salmon, which is why there are fewer fish to fill the guts of protected marine mammals or fill the nets of Indians and offshore fishermen from distant lands. If we just give up 65% of our property in Middle Earth there may even possibly be one to one and one-half more salmon for each seal and sea lion and two more

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## PROJECT OFF AGAIN

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residents were promised two projects to be completed in 2002. It was mutually agreed at meetings between King County staff and valley residents that the first projects should be at the lower end of the valley, as it does not make any sense to clean the ditch by working downstream. The projects that were agreed upon were located at the McFarland/Nguyen reach (Project 1) and the Colasurdo/Redmond/Free/Hanson/Crane/Spence/Fisher/Thompson/Kapioski/Foreman/Kubisky reach (Project 2). Project 1 happened (at a cost of \$656 per foot) but project 2 did not.

The only proposal put forth by DNRP staff for Project 2 consisted of digging a new channel around the current swamp so that in 10 years there would be twice as much swamp. Problems with property lines (which all run to the center of the ditch), increased buffers because of the repositioning, etc. led the affected landowners to wisely reject that idea. Recommendation 5 calls for cleaning the ditch, not creating another one. DNRP then went away in a huff and postponed that project until 2003. DNRP, of course, blames the lack of action on uncooperative landowners.

A recent letter from Councilman David Irons has revealed that plans for Project 2 have been put off indefinitely while DNRP wastes more money studying the problem—King County has funded

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## PROJECT OFF AGAIN

*(Continued from page 3)*

three major studies and innumerable minor studies of May Creek since 1960. DNRP instead proposes to consider (not necessarily do) small pilot projects further up the valley. Any such projects would run counter to the agreed-upon notion that cleaning must occur from the bottom up. It would also mean that, once again, promised projects are ignored. As part of considering other projects, they wish to once more study the valley, which necessitates county personnel coming on all of our properties to "survey" the creek. Once properties are surveyed, however, it will then be much easier for DDES to enforce the status quo.

**In light of the ongoing non-performance by King County in relieving flooding in May Valley, 64 property owners have pledged not to let King County personnel onto their property until Project 2 is completed as promised and have given all King County personnel notice to that effect via a petition.**

**MVEC meets every  
Monday at 7 PM at  
Leonard's Bar and Grill  
See you there!**

## CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE UPDATE

*(Continued from page 3)*

fish in some net somewhere. There also may be more water to wash the cars and water the lawns in Emerald City; we certainly wouldn't want to alarm the electorate there!

The Emerald City folk would really like the Middle Earth people to just go away, and some of them have! But then there wouldn't be a rural setting that they could drive through, relax in and envy somewhat, so they tell us that they really want to help us "preserve the rural lifestyle" but that there is irrefutable scientific evidence that changes must be made in that lifestyle. They haven't mentioned horse diapers or bovine flatulence yet but that could be forthcoming in the next draft proposal. All of that would then be based on the best scientific knowledge available which is working out the reason for the hole in the ozone layer and the sky falling, as presented in a scientific paper by Chicken Little.

Seriously folks, and to quote that great paragon of social virtue, Rodney King, "Can't we all just get along?" We have these folks from the County here, paid by the taxpayers, trying to do the best they can with the best intentions. There are, however, many among us who know just how really bad and unfair the current proposal really is. To implement this proposal without significant changes would produce insufferable consequences to the rural community. To even let this ill-conceived, overly prescriptive, intrusive and needlessly complicated document get to the County Executive and to the Council stacked in favor of the people of Emerald City (who aren't affected and are totally clueless) would be a victory for urban tyranny and a sad day for the County. I ask each of you in Middle Earth to come together and find some common ground to straighten out this mess-in-the-making. Please contact me and get on our list of folks who really care. Let's roll! 253-536-2546

### CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE COMMENTS DUE BY FEBRUARY 28

Public comments on the proposed Critical Areas and Stormwater Ordinance are due by February 28, 2003.

Full text of the proposed ordinances can be found at <http://www.metrokc.gov/ddes/cao/>.

Comments can be submitted online at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/cao/commentform/>. Comments can be submitted via email to [CAO-StormwaterUpdate@metrokc.gov](mailto:CAO-StormwaterUpdate@metrokc.gov). Comments can be mailed to:

Critical Areas / Stormwater Ordinances  
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98104

## YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

By Rodney McFarland

A couple of recent articles in the Seattle Times reminded me that the old adage “You Get What You Pay For” certainly applies to government. The first article was about the average lot price on the Eastside (\$190,000) and the second was about how more people are leaving this area than are moving here.

The most affluent and influential members of society create governments to serve their needs. Protection of wealth is the primary service government provides those who control it. The Roman Empire certainly wasn't created to help out the slaves and the poor nor was our own country. Our founders said our government was for all Americans but limited participation to male landowners. Whether the government consists of one person as in the European monarchies, self-appointed socialist bureaucrats, or freely elected representatives the result is always the same. Those that have wealth govern the have-nots for the benefit of the haves.

If you own a \$190,000 building lot you are definitely among the haves. It wasn't that long ago that Dick Colasurdo was developing lots in this area that sold for \$5,000. Especially nice ones might fetch \$10,000. House and lot together might be \$40,000. How do you get to \$190,000 for that same lot and its accompanying \$570,000 house? It's really simple. You and your neighbors contribute enough money and effort to the campaigns of some politicians that they will do a favor for you. They draw a line around your land and use the armed force of government to prevent any development outside the line. The economic law of supply and demand kicks in and the value of your property goes way up. You say, of course, that the line needs to be drawn to “save” the land outside the line—a ready-made distracter already put in place by the environmental evangelists. [See the sidebar on distracters if you are not familiar with them.]

Once lot prices start inflating, the small single-house developers can no longer compete. The medium and large developers are the only ones that can afford the land. The large developers then play their second trump card, once again using a ready-made distracter provided by the environmental evangelists. In order to once again “save” the land from the destruction of the developers, the politicians create a labyrinthine permitting and regulating bureaucracy to oversee anything and everything that happens on the lot. The mid-size developers can no longer afford the five-year permitting process with its attendant lawsuits and negative publicity let alone the exorbitant permit fees necessary to support the bureaucracy. But for the already wealthy developers it is a bonanza. They have limited the supply of land and drastically reduced their competition and prices can go way up.

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## WHAT THE HECK IS A DISTRACTER?

Anyone who has ever taken a multiple-choice exam has experience with distracters. Every question has one or more answers that look good, appear to be logical and just feel right. But they are wrong. Students that don't really understand the question will choose them every time. Only those with in-depth knowledge of the subject can resist them and choose the correct answer. The teacher is thus able to minimize the chance that students will guess the correct answer.

Politicians have traditionally been the grand masters of using distracters. They say one thing but do another while we are distracted by their rhetoric. Many people erroneously attribute the Law of Unintended Consequences to laws that really work just as intended but were promoted using good distracters thus leading people to think the distracter was actually signed into law. Even politicians with honorable intentions but slow reading skills get hoodwinked into voting for distracters because they don't read what they are voting for.

The radical environmentalists are giving the politicians a run for their money though. (Yes, I know it is really our money!) They have a whole litany of distracters that they have inculcated into our brains. They range from little green lies to great green whoppers but they are

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## WHAT THE HECK IS A DISTRACTER?

(Continued from page 5)

so well crafted and repeated so often that most folks treat them as proven theories. Meanwhile, the real agendas slide in the back door on the coattails of sympathetic or gullible politicians. Ever heard of the “Salmon Recovery Plan?” It makes Bill Clinton’s firing of a couple cruise missiles at an aspirin factory to get us to forget about Monica—what the heck was her name—pale in comparison. We don’t even think about the billions of dollars subsidizing commercial salmon fishing.

If you want to know what is really going on in our world, get better at spotting and ignoring distracters. They are everywhere.

### DISTRACTER EXAMPLE

What is the most endangered species in May Valley?

1. *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*  
chinook
2. *Buteo jamaicensis*  
red-tailed hawk
3. *Ardea ardea herodias*  
great blue heron
4. *Homo proprietas*  
property owner
5. *Ectopistes migratoria*  
passenger pigeon
6. *Homo dediticius*  
subject of Rome (or KC)  
without rights

Answer: 4—The few remaining Homo proprietas are rapidly becoming Homo dediticius. Passenger pigeons are long gone, thus not endangered.

## YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

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Everyone inside the line who already owns property is happy as the value of existing homes flows upward also. They are all glad their wealthy neighbors invented this fine government to help make them wealthy too. They may grouse about the high property taxes it takes to support the bureaucracy and the politicians and the enforcers but deep down they are glad how things have turned out.

For those who don’t own property, the picture is a little different. The politicians wring their hands and do everything they can—wink, wink—to find some “affordable” housing. What they find, if anything is tenements and high-rise apartments and vouchers to use to rent from their developer buddies. The American dream of your own house on your own lot is gone for those who don’t already own a house.

Those who own undeveloped land outside the line are not much better off. Before the line was drawn they might have owned five acres that could be divided into 20 one-fourth acre lots worth \$10,000 each (total = \$200,000). After the line is drawn to exclude them, they have one lot worth \$190,000 while those inside the line have 20 lots worth \$190,000 each (total = \$3.8 million). Both people may have purchased their property to help pay for their retirement but only one gets to quit working. In order not to get lynched by these disgruntled landowners, the politicians spend major amounts of tax dollars promoting even more distracters to “educate” the rural landowners that it is their civic duty to provide “open space” for those crowded into the tenements. It’s a little green lie that the tenement residents want open space outside the line. What they really want is an affordable house outside the line.

Those who already own developed property outside the line can view the line as good or bad depending on their point of view. Many take the view that all development of the rural area should have ceased as soon as their house was built. They love living near their neighbors’ undeveloped open space and consider it their right that it stays undeveloped. They can have the feeling of palatial forested estates without actually having to buy the land and pay the taxes that go with it.

Others take the view that their taxes should pay for the same infrastructure as those inside the line enjoy. They think that that they have a right to roads and sewers and commercial areas close to home at which to shop no matter what the King County Comprehensive Plan says. The regulators tell them to quit sniveling about their taxes since it costs more to provide services in the country so they are being subsidized by the city

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## YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

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folk. The tax rate in unincorporated King County is 13.1% as compared to, say, Medina at 9.07% or Hunts Point at 7.93%. If they really were subsidizing us, they would gladly let us become Cedar County!

Some may say that this is all a great hypothesis but that the wealthy could never buy that many politicians. Most of you probably recognize it as a done deal. In 1990 the Washington State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act (voters rejected 3 to 1 initiative 547 upon which it is based) which mandated that cities and counties draw urban growth boundary lines to further separate the haves from the used-to-haves and the never-will-haves. The rest, as they say, is history.

The return on investment for the wealthy has been substantial. The politicians and bureaucrats have been able to grow government beyond their wildest fantasies. The use of distracters has been refined to a high art. See the accompanying articles about the 13 unfulfilled Growth Management Act promises. The regulators are currently making the rounds "educating" us about even more onerous restrictions coming in the new Critical Areas Ordinance. The 1990 Sensitive Areas Ordinance obviously hasn't raised the price of lots high enough so they will crank it up a notch to the cheers of the environmental evangelists. If the 1000 environmental evangelists of Washington really cared about the rural area, they would buy five or ten acres and "save it." But, of course, they can't afford that. They only know how to spend other people's retirement money. They are even able to project smug righteousness while saving the world with someone else's nickels.

If you think growth is bad, then the real solution is to make the region unpalatable to large numbers of present or potential residents. High taxes, high housing costs, onerous regulation and ignored traffic congestion will do it nicely. Those that are here will move elsewhere and those that have been moving here from elsewhere will cease to do so. You attain the perfect solution without spending any tax money on infrastructure. Which brings us to the second recent newspaper article. Surveys of moving companies reveal that the exodus has begun. Once upon a time companies that moved employees to Seattle often had trouble getting them to move away. Now whole companies are leaving because they can't afford to expand due to regulatory burdens and permit fees and their employees cannot afford the house prices in the area.

I am convinced that continued governmental manipulation will be able to eventually drive out enough people that all our problems will go away. Traffic congestion will cease to be a problem. The rural areas will once

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## CONSTITUENT LETTER TO COUNCILMAN DAVID IRONS



**Signing of the Constitution**

Councilman Irons,

First of all thank you for keeping me abreast of County Government actions. My response to the "Subject" issue: This is another way for Government to control private land! I profess that I am angered by the County, of overrunning the highest law of this nation: The U.S. Constitution (Amendments: Article V and XIV). It is wrong to institute laws that control land purchased and owned by private citizens. It boggles the mind in a free society where liberty to own property is protected by constitutional law, to purchase land and then not be able to use it the way you want to. Or, in the case of the Endangered Species Act, to be told part of your land cannot be used, or improved. Land that is being taxed!

Our liberty to own land, spelled out in the US Constitution, and supported by the Washington State Constitution, has been relegated to the freedom to occupy it only. We have the privilege to pay taxes, and build on it as long as we comply with county codes and regulations. If we do not comply we are fined.

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**YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR**

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again be as they were in 1850 with trees and swamps and plentiful fish and game. Residents will be able to commune with nature in the morning, join Councilman Pelz for a ball game in the evening and then ride the train home for a nightcap. Seattle will once again be paradise—if you are rich or one of their servants.

The Growth Management Act mandates that King County must review and make changes to its Comprehensive Plan that implements it by the end of 2004. If you are wealthy, this is your chance to tighten the screws. The rest of you might want to start paying attention and getting involved. Or you could just spend the time figuring out where to move!

**EVIL**

They talk of Peace  
They talk of War  
But there can be no more  
Peace—that is

There's Evil out there  
Let's see what Evil is

Have you ever heard of the TVA  
Flooded towns; homes lost;  
Lives shattered; Evil was

Let's see what Evil is  
DNRP; Pam B;  
Daryl G: King C

Or just plain fraud  
King County is Evil

Rick Spence 02-01-03

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT—THE GOALS**

Growth Managements' 13-Step Program

1. Urban growth—Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner.
2. Reduce sprawl—Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development.
3. Transportation—Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans.
4. Housing—Encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock.
5. Economic development—Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities.
6. **Property rights—Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions.**
7. Permits—Applications for both state and local government permits should be processed in a timely and fair manner to ensure predictability.
8. Natural resource industries—Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forest lands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses.
9. Open space and recreation—Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks.
10. Environment—Protect the environment and enhance the state's high

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## GROWTH MANAGEMENT—THE REALITY

[The following is from an extensive report on the Growth Management Act prepared by Evergreen Freedom Foundation in January 2002. The full text can be found at [http://www.effwa.org/pdfs/growth\\_management\\_act.pdf](http://www.effwa.org/pdfs/growth_management_act.pdf).]

At present, GMA appears to be a self-defeating system. Not only has it failed to provide a truly bottom-up planning framework, but the Act has a negative impact on many of its own goals. Consider the following:

1. Urban growth—Restricting growth to urban areas limits available land supply, negatively impacting the cost of housing. In addition, increased urban densities can result in increased traffic congestion and air pollution. Rather than efficiently using existing infrastructure, it appears that GMA's urban growth policies may overburden existing infrastructure. What's more, even former GMA supporters are acknowledging that there are limits to population density, beyond which quality of life is degraded.

2. Transportation—Presently, the Seattle area ranks second in the nation for traffic congestion, wasting time and increasing business costs. Needless to say, as housing prices rise, buyers must travel further to find a home they can afford. This exacerbates traffic congestion, as the distance workers travel from their homes to their job increases.

3. Housing—Many companies have difficulty attracting a quality workforce because workers cannot afford to live close enough to their homes. GMA has tightened restrictions on land use and increased the regulatory burdens on development. Although national home ownership rates have risen, Washington state is among the lowest in the nation. Seventy percent of today's homes are not affordable for those who make at or less than the median income. Research indicates that a significant percentage of Washington's increased housing prices may be attributed to GMA. GMA-authorized impact fees are also contributing to the high cost of development. These costs, in turn, are passed on to consumers, resulting in higher housing costs.

4. Economic development—Economically depressed counties are being thwarted in their attempts to recruit new businesses and sustain existing ones. Hearings Board opinions restrict the flexibility counties were intended to have in planning for local economic needs. Another specific concern is that counties' economic tax bases are eroded by the GMA requirement that growth be channeled into cities (UGAs).

5. Property rights—Private property owners face serious restrictions on their ability to use, develop, and enjoy their property. Consider the

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## CONSTITUENT LETTER TO COUNCILMAN DAVID IRONS

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Or, if we do not pay our taxes the property is taken from us. This was not the intention of the Founding Fathers. Private ownership of property is tantamount to a democratic and free society. Supposedly, a democratic and free society is what we have in the US!

It is frustrating that these issues come up time and again without public satisfaction. The Government keeps infringing on our rights as property owners. When will someone with clout and legal knowledge step forward and champion our cause? When all the hearings and meetings are over I know that the county bureaucrats will get together and come out with a plan for King County's response to the federal Endangered Species Act. I know as well as I sit here and type up this message that some people are going to lose some more of their property because of this Act.

It is frustrating to me as a Precinct Committee Officer to hear the complaints from neighbors, family and friends that they can't do this, or they can't do that, because the County will not allow it. Or, those poor souls who did not know what they could not do, and do it, then have the horrible experience of wrath by the Department of Development and Environmental Services. Most of the people I know

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## CONSTITUENT LETTER TO COUNCILMAN DAVID IRONS

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want a clean and habitable environment. But they feel, as I do, that they lose some of their freedoms every time the bureaucrats decide new environmental requirements need be instituted because of some hairbrain finding. Many times these findings are unreasonable, unnecessary and even untrue. I believe our "representative" government is leaning more and more towards Socialism. I am sick and tired of losing my property rights; so, I am sending this message out to as many people I can. Hopefully, there will be an awakening, and people will flood their "representatives" with outcries of "cease and desist," and "give us back our land."

And one other thing! How is it that the Government is suing the people? I refer to Initiative 747. The people passed the Initiative! It is the Government that should do the bidding of the people. What has happened is some of our beloved representatives have decided they can't live without the money that has been extracted from us. So, they say: "The Initiative has some constitutionality problems." Whatever, the people passed the Initiative and it should become law.

Thanks for lending an ear.  
You have my vote,

David E. Mobley, Issaquah

## GROWTH MANAGEMENT—THE GOALS

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quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.

11. Citizen participation and coordination—Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts.

12. Public facilities and service—Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.

13. Historic preservation—Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures, that have historical or archaeological significance.

### FOUND ONCE AGAIN

*Found once again planting dandelions on the White House lawn  
among the capitalist monuments  
signatures on documents  
the manipulated history, manifest destiny  
whatever it takes to drive the economy  
the Ministry of war is more than busy.*

*Half the world is molested  
the rest are molesters  
half the world is in slavery  
the rest are the masters,  
but things are nice down in Florida.*

*Found once again selling ganja in Babylon  
to straights with fat wallets full of dead presidents  
and credit cards up the ass.*

*Ads cry: Buy Buy Buy!  
The countless worthless objects  
sold for huge profits.*

*Throw-away paper cup Starbucks latte'  
half-pound of ground round made your way  
slave labor designer clothes from the Bon Marche'  
but things are nice out in California.*

Lynn L. E. Connelson

## GROWTH MANAGEMENT—THE REALITY

*(Continued from page 9)*

Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board's disapproval of Lewis County's regulation authorizing a second dwelling on farm land. Why should the State be able to prevent a family member from building a home alongside his or her parents to help with, or ultimately take over management of, the family farm?

6. Permits—Although certain provisions of the GMA encourage timely permit processing, the current practice of invalidating local comprehensive plans and development regulations has brought uncertainty and delay to the permit offices of a number of Washington's counties. Without valid regulations in effect, developers have no guarantees about the standards their work must meet or expenses they will incur. Permit processing is still unbelievably slow—the process can take over three years in some areas.

7. Environment—While GMA seems to have prompted increased environmental protection, some are concerned that the Hearings Boards give more weight to the environmental goal than the other twelve GMA goals, precluding local governments from balancing planning goals to reflect regional differences and economic needs.

8. Citizen participation and coordination—Many citizens have become involved in the land use planning process, but it would appear that counties' comprehensive plans and development regulations all too often reflect the views of the Hearings Boards rather than the views of local citizens. This is a disincentive for continued citizen involvement and defeats GMA's role as a bottom-up planning process.

### STOMACH

Sometimes I remember you  
It gives me a stomach ache  
To try and picture your face  
The cap of my pen is  
Chewed to nothing from  
Hearing your voice once again  
My fingernails are  
Ripped to nothing because  
Every time I close my eyes I see you smiling at me  
But it's true, I only think of you sometimes  
And only sometimes because I forget that it was real.

Kenya Dillon—02

## THE ADVANTAGES OF CIVIL SERVICE

A guy stopped at a local gas station and, after filling his tank, he paid the bill and bought a soft drink. He stood by his car to drink his cola and watched a couple of men working along the roadside.

One man would dig a hole two or three feet deep and then move on. The other man came along behind him and filled in the hole. While one was digging a new hole, the other was 25 feet behind filling in the hole.

The men worked right past the guy with the soft drink and went on down the road. "I can't stand this," said the man tossing the can into a trash container and heading down the road toward the men. "Hold it, hold it," he said to the men. "Can you tell me what's going on here with all this digging and refilling?"

"Well, we work for King County and we're just doing our job," one of the men said.

"But one of you is digging a hole and the other fills it up. You're not accomplishing anything. Aren't you wasting the taxpayers' money?"

"You don't understand, mister," one of the men said, leaning on his shovel and wiping his brow. Normally there's three of us: me, Elmer and Leroy. I dig the hole, Elmer sticks in the tree, and Leroy here puts the dirt back. Elmer's job's been cut...so now it's just me and Leroy.



**OLD KING COUNTY FINALLY FINDS OUT WHY HE HAS BEEN SO SICK!**

**Politicians, Bureaucrats and diapers have one thing in common.  
All should be changed regularly, and for the same reason.**

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## CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE

By Kate Miller

Well now that the threat of sex offender housing being put in the lower valley is over it is time we turned to an even bigger threat to all of rural King County—the proposed updates to the Critical Areas Ordinance. Because it has been more than 10 years since King Counties Sensitive Areas Ordinance (K.C.C. 21A.24) has been updated a whole slew of government agencies got together and created a list of recommendations and boy are we going to take it in the shorts if these get approved.

The first problem I encountered at the public hearing held at Tolt Middle School on January 23rd was the way all these government agencies approached the updates. By County and State law the need to drastically encroach on property rights is not because there is a ton of proof that water quality in unincorporated King County is getting worse. They base the need for these highly restrictive laws on what they consider the “Best Science” of the day. So if someone does a study that says that water quality will get worse if 65% of the land isn't kept as open space...they propose a rule that all new construction in unincorporated King County must now leave 65% open space on their own private property. I am not kidding, according to this proposal if you want to build on any lot bigger than ½ acre, you can only clear 35% of the land. The rest must be pre-

served as open space! Oh but you pay taxes on the all the land. But that is not all, when it comes to the great King County Land grab. Let's talk about “Aquatic Areas” which is any lake, stream, pond or shoreline. In 2000 King County slid by a little “public rule” that any *stream segment* that measures 20” across and has a grade of 20% or less, is now a salmon stream whether a salmon has ever been seen or even could get to that stream. Currently if you can prove (with very costly specialist) that all the drainpipes in your neighborhood prohibit any living thing from being in your ditch you could change the classification. Now to add insult to injury the new proposal is that there are no exceptions except for naturally occurring stream blocks...like say, Snoqualmie Falls. So if these new rules become law every ditch and creek will have to have a setback of one hundred and sixty five feet—even if there are one hundred culverts between your ditch and the nearest salmon. And if your ditch is less than twenty inches or has a steeper grade but flows into a 20” stream, then you will only have to contend with a sixty-five foot buffer. But this only applies to aquatic areas, wetlands are a little different and their designation is harder to pin down.

Wetlands have four categories and there is a little 65-page Washington State ratings form used to decide the class of your wetland. Question number one: is there any state or federally listed threat-

ened or endangered species using the wetland? In other words, if you have a bald eagle that hovers on your property or a blue heron you are “class I” and dead meat because your setbacks will be 300 feet. But that is the worst case. Most of us would be affected by Category IV wetlands, which are less than an acre and isolated from other waterways. All you need is one special “vegetated class” plant and you now get to provide a 50-foot buffer around your little swamp. The bigger and wetter the swamp and the bigger the buffer. And forget being able to actually use your land. If you have a buffer, it is off limits except for the most primitive of uses. I had one DDES official tell me “Current buffers are ok now, but next thing you know there is swing set in them”. God forbid that your kids should have a swing set on your private property. But if you think homeowners have it bad, the proposed rules are really shafting the dairy farms in the valley.

Already there are a ton of Government agencies that regulate everything from the number of livestock per acre to the size, shape and location of manure piles. The over-regulation of dairy farms in the last ten years has forced the closure of the vast majority of farms in our area. Now they want the farmers to fence off every lake, pond, stream, and ditch. The fence has to provide a minimum buffer of 25' with much larger buffers required for higher classed

(Continued on page 14)

### CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE

*(Continued from page 13)*

waterways. It doesn't matter to those proposing the rules that dairy farming is darn near dead in the Snoqualmie Valley. I feel fairly sure that the number of cows in the valley is at an all time low. An endangered species—a dairy farmer— testified at the hearing that when he started milking the family farm in 1992 there were 13 dairies on his road, now there are only three. I am sure these new proposals, if approved, will finish off the last three. But crop farming won't save the farm.

Crop farmers have to provide buffers too. Under the proposed regulations they will have to "plant" the buffer zones. And if they wash away they will have to plant them again. They are also required to

plant cover crops every winter. What are you supposed to grow after pumpkin season is over? Frost? You can tell that none of these proposals was written to keep agriculture alive in the Snoqualmie Valley. You might as well start planting cover crops over the farmers.

Time is of the essence in getting your voice heard on these regulations. We need to take the energy this community showed to fight sex offender housing and fight these regulations. Tell your County officials that we don't need more restrictions until there is proof that water quality is declining. Until their own water quality testing programs show an increase of manure or fertilizer in our water we should be looking at

ways to reduce regulation on agriculture not increase it. And it might not hurt to let them know that with the forest production district covering almost 50% of unincorporated King County combined with the hugely restrictive growth management regulations that there is no way on Gods green earth we are in danger of covering even 50% of rural King County let alone 65%. Send your comments to Critical Areas/ Stormwater Ordinances: 201 S Jackson St., Ste 600, Seattle Washington, 98104. We only have until February 7<sup>th</sup> [Editor's note: deadline extended to February 28 ] to make our voices heard.

*Kate Miller lives between Carnation and Duwall. You can reach her at [katemo1@msn.com](mailto:katemo1@msn.com)*



The government funded a University of Washington study investigating constipation among worms.



If you gut a small businessman, his intestines will stretch to about the length of the 202 volume **Code of Federal Regulations** governing small business.

**LETTER FROM DAVID IRONS**

Feb. 13, 2003

Daryl Grigsby  
Water & Land Resources Division  
Department of Natural Resources & Parks  
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600  
Seattle, Washington 98104-3855

RE: Community Sentiment on May Valley 2003 Basin Projects

Dear Mr. Grigsby,

Thank you for meeting with me yesterday to discuss your recent revisions to the approved 2003 project list implementing the May Creek Basin Action Plan.

After sharing your information last night with local residents and members of the May Valley Environmental Council, I would like to convey to you the community's high level of frustration and mistrust about the division's actions to delay the scheduled creek improvement projects.

We briefly discussed the game plan laid out in my recent letter to the group and their frustrations with its content and with the Department overall. Residents expressed extreme outrage at what they believe is a betrayal of trust with the failure of the Water and Land Resources Division to move forward with the Crane/Hansen project this year. Last summer, May Valley property owners believed they were given verbal assurance from the Division that the project would be designed during the winter, and would be ready with permits for the 2003 construction season. They received no indication from staff that the project would be stalled because of their objections to the concept of permanently relocating the creek further north on the subject properties. In fact, even after the agency meeting to discuss the options for removing sediment and vegetation in the creek, staff did not contact the property owners or MVEC members to convey staff concerns about the development of the Crane/Hansen permit package.

The community was assured that this project would go forward through information in the handout I gave MVEC members in December, noting the Crane project on the list of capital projects adopted in the 2003 Budget. However, staff had not communicated with my office or with the residents regarding their concerns about designing the project and submitting permits. Therefore, based on our discussions and discussions you have had with an MVEC representative, you can better understand their deep feelings of betrayal by an agency (and their government) that was working with them, and which then quietly determined the project could not be done after all. Neither the citizens nor I were contacted about this change until the January briefing by you and your staff. Last night's meeting concluded with the MVEC Board and members requesting me to convey to you their position on any projects in May Valley this year. They request that the Division focus on designing and implementing the Crane/Hansen project as noted in the approved 2003 county CIP list. Further, they request that no pilot projects occur until this project is delivered. In order to restore their faith and trust in the Division, they request that the MVEC Board be provided periodically with a detailed project schedule showing the milestones accomplished. They would expect a staff update as each milestone is achieved, or as mutually agreed. Finally, they have a petition that has been signed by all but two owners with property abutting the creek. MVEC members also noted that, in accordance with the wording of the petition, they expect contact with the property owners along the creek to be made through MVEC's Basin Steward.

I appreciate your recognition of the impacts of not keeping me and the community informed about the status of the Crane project. The community, staff, you and I have invested a lot to get the Basin plan passed and then implemented. My request to you is to focus on meeting the MVEC request and/or a project mutually agreed upon by all parties. It does however, need to fit the "large project category" in which we are removing silt and vegetation to improve fish habitat and reduce flood impacts. I offer you my assistance as

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## DAVID IRONS

(Continued from page 15)

you take the lead to ensure these efforts reach a win/win conclusion. I look forward to your regular updates about the Division's progress.

David W. Irons  
King County Council District 12



The King County Medic One Distinguished Citizen Award was presented to Councilmember Irons on October 23, 2002, to recognize his "life-saving act of compassion by performing CPR on September 21, 2002." Councilmember Irons was participating in a public meeting about transportation in Kent when a citizen collapsed after testifying. Irons and Metro supervisor Jim Jacobsen performed CPR until medics arrived.



### FULL MENTAL MONTE

January 28, 2003, was a night to remember. That was the night that May Valley's Poet Laureate Reggie Hopper hosted the first ever (at least in recent memory) poetry reading and all around cultural evening at Leonard's in beautiful downtown Coalfield.

Several local poets read their own works as well as works of others. Dick Volin tugged the hearts of the assembled throng with a tribute to his late father. A sizable contingent of poets and spectators came down from Snoqualmie and joined the locals.

Similar events have been promised in the future.



### Festival of the Flood

#### Community Potluck

February 25, 2003  
5:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Alliance Community Church  
16431 SE Renton/Issaquah Road

Come and join your neighbors in an evening of good food and good cheer. Contact Marielos Bandelin at 425.430.9957 if you want suggestions on what to bring.





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# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

JIM OSBORNE

The fight is on again! The project the county promised to do last year, and then told us would be done this year, was canceled.

That act, as most of you know, triggered our petition drive to get the county back on track. I'm happy to report that all but two creek side residents have signed to date. One is out of town, and the other, I believe, just plain scared. A couple of years ago she gave up property for open space to get a reduction on her taxes. Well, when she got the next year's tax bill, the building taxes were raised higher than the reduction on the land taxes.

It was nice to get out and meet some of the people of the valley; we do represent just about every walk of life. The unity we showed on this issue was very impressive and I believe sent a clear message, **UNITED WE STAND**. DNRP's attempt to divide and conquer has failed.

The fight is far from over. The upcoming critical areas ordinance will affect just about everybody in rural King County. Three hundred foot buffers and leaving 65% of your land natural is nothing short of a land grab. You want my land, give me fair market value and I will go away. But that is expensive, so instead they will attempt to steal it. Many wars have been fought over land and it looks

like the empire is trying to take ours. We have a choice: grab our spears and arrows or start shopping for a downtown condo. I for one cannot live in a condo.

As you all know, this is all in the name of salmon recovery. If it is really about salmon, take a look at our ditch. With its silt bottom and channel clogged with vegetation, a salmon doesn't have a prayer. Is it common practice to club endangered species? If they really are endangered, why did I see them at Pike Place market advertised as caught locally for \$6.99 a pound?

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*The Naked Fish, published by  
May Valley Environmental Council  
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**Protect  
Historic  
May Valley!**

The printing of this newsletter was made possible, in part, through the **King County Water Quality Fund**, awarded by the King County Council.

