

## David Haggith

I think it is absolutely ludicrous that we live in one of the wettest counties in the nation with water dripping off our noses nearly every day and are being told that water, which largely goes right back into the streams rivers and aquifer when you water your plants, is so scarce that no one will be allowed to have more than a twelfth of an acre of green lawn or flower beds ... as if we are living in Arizona or California.

I also think it is even more ludicrous, if water is in such EXTREME short supply, that Whatcom County and Bellingham and other towns are doing all they can to allow in as many new people as we possibly can. As someone who grew up here and is now 60-years old, I've watched as Whatcom County went from being one of the most beautiful rural counties I've seen to adopting King County's process of urban sprawl. ALL OVER THE COUNTY, where I used to see nothing but farms and woods, I see equestrian estates and housing developments going in. I've seen THOUSANDS of people added up where I live near Kendall -- an area serviced by a single highway.

Let's be honest most of the new people we are doing our best to cram in are aliens from a variety of nations -- East Indians, Russians, Ukrainians, Mexicans, Central Americans. I have no problem with where they are from, but I have a huge problem with doing everything we can to cram more and more people (from ANYWHERE) into Whatcom County. The county deceives itself entirely by claiming it is slowing the process with 5-acre rural restrictions, but I've seen these carved down to 1-acre plots with reserves; and we all know that when the population pressure increases more, the county will eventually allow subdivision of those plots.

That is exactly how King County got to be urban sprawl clear up into the mountains (just as we're now seeing thousands moving into the mountains on the upper Mt Baker Hwy).

My Point: IF YOU REALLY WANT TO CURB WATER USE, CURB POPULATION GROWTH. Stop allowing farms to be subdivided at all. Make AGRICULTURAL gradings for AGRICULTURE, not for sub-division into endless lawns and gardens and septic systems. People were GIVEN that land originally as a homestead for agricultural use, so stay with the requirement that it be farmed that the land was originally conveyed with. Get serious about the agricultural zoning, and make sure forest and farm don't keep turning into suburban sprawl. King County got to be what it is today one farm at a time!

And stop the absurd addiction to pushing immigration. I love people of all cultures, but I don't love having SO MANY people from any culture. Stop the overpopulation that causes all kinds of problems. Get really serious about this HUMAN-CAUSED problem and stop the population growth that endlessly compounds it! It is completely absurd to believe you must endlessly expand human population in this naturally glorious county in order to have a healthy economy. If it is true that we must continue real-estate development in order to have an economy, then I guess we have to become Mexico City and even then keep growing more and more dense.

--David Haggith