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#278514 | March 17, 2021

Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended Draft**

Arnold Creek Neighborhood Association (ACNA) thanks the Planning and Sustainability Commission for working to address the difficult and important task of creating shelter and housing for the houseless and addressing the lack of affordable housing in our city. We support the Shelter to Housing Continuum (S2HC) land use changes that will simplify code for needed emergency shelters, day storage and hygiene facilities, transitional living facilities, and stable housing for individuals and households with extremely low incomes. We do not support code changes that allow outdoor and mass shelters in environmentally sensitive natural areas. This does not integrate the houseless within our neighborhood, displaces resident wildlife, and could cause permanent environmental degradation. The S2HC documentation identifies over 2000 vacant lots (over 1000 acres) of allowed and limited use land available for Outdoor Shelters and over 4000 vacant lots (nearly 5000 acres) of limited use land for Mass Shelters. Since mass shelters can be located in existing buildings, there are over 89,000 total lots available. We believe that sensitive natural areas and the resident wildlife should continue to be protected in Open Space Zones (OSZ). Although E-zones and other ecologically sensitive areas have restrictions in place that prohibit informal camping, the observable damage caused by campers to protected natural areas of Johnson Creek is tragic. ACNA supports integration of the houseless within our residential community and also acknowledges our responsibility, living as we do on stolen land, to try to re-connect to the indigenous land-based world view. In that spirit, and with the understanding S2HC does not include the continued and critical protection of plant and animal life located in E-Zones and sensitive natural areas of OSZ, ACNA does not support this aspect of the S2HC proposal. Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.