

Darlene Betat

#332092 | September 28, 2022

Testimony to the Planning and Sustainability Commission on the Floodplain Resilience Plan, Proposed Draft

Dear Planning and Sustainability Commission Members: I am writing to ask that PSC adopt the entire Floodplain Resilience Plan to protect our communities against the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, protect water quality, and provide fish and wildlife habitat. Not adequately protecting our floodplains is inconsistent with the City's Climate Action Plan and Climate Emergency Work Plan and would be irresponsible. Cities across the United States have been hit with major flood events in recent years and Portland has its own tragic history at Vanport. We have had major flooding as recently as last spring. The plan does not stop all floodplain development but it does increase protections for floodplains and requires real mitigation when floodplains are developed to compensate for the impacts. This puts the costs where they belong--on developers rather than on the community. The City must adopt the whole plan. Removal of Title 24 Amendments guts one of the most important parts of the plan. Title 24 protections must be restored. The City postponed addressing some industrial lands along the river and Columbia River to a later phase of the process. As soon as this plan is adopted the City must expedite developing floodplain protections on all industrial lands, which include some of our most important floodplains. As leaders, we look to you to make choices that serve the community, not just developers. Please adopt the entire Floodplain Resilience Plan to ensure safe healthy communities, clean water and salmon.

Sincerely, Darlene Betat

Testimony is presented without formatting.