Dear Planning Commissioners,

We are all aware of the shortage of affordable housing. We have also seen what happens when too much housing is clustered in an area with inadequate services.

That is why it is so important that we get this PDO right. The area has already suffered from a critical shortage of youth, children, and senior services for decades. We cannot expect youth and families to travel downtown to access services like the library or the Y south of 41st street. Residents in Delta are left with nowhere to go and nothing to do. We need a youth center, not a youth jail in this neighborhood so that youth have a safe place to go after school. We need a library, so that families, seniors and kids have something to do on cold, rainy days and establish reading and learning as a part of the community that has not had this access in the past.

I have been a part of bringing community partners together to make this a thriving community, from the Schack, to Village Theatre, to KSER. This plan will work, but we need the City to do its share to make it work by bringing a library branch to what is already the most densely populated neighborhood in North Everett.

In addition, this PDO will require outside the box thinking and serve as a model for future development in Everett and Snohomish County. There need to be safe multimodal pathways, from safe routes to school, to a pedestrian pathway running through the heart of the development with mixed retail and services. This also includes sidewalks on 15th Street to connect to both service areas on Broadway and E Marine View Drive.

We need your help in the Planning Commission to recommend the following mitigations for the Park District PDO:

1. Everett Public Library Branch - a warm, dry community space to provide access to education, reading and information.
2. Sidewalks on 15th Street to Broadway and to E Marine View Drive. The street vacation funds collected from the EHA to vacate 2 streets would likely be sufficient to pay for this to meet the needs of our future residents. This is a safety priority.
3. Youth Center - a safe space after school and access to mentors and tutoring with fun events. We have a jail but no youth center.
4. Maintain Wiggums Hollow Park in its current state. The City must acquire the adjacent property to maintain as part of the park.
5. A gym. Local residents need access to services to build strong, healthy bodies and improved lifespans.
6. Boys and Girls Club Wetlands. Restoration of the wetlands, a maintenance agreement and conveyance of the property to the Everett Parks Department.
7. Pedestrian street running through the heart of the development as a mixed use corridor.

We are grateful that childcare and a friendship garden are already a part of the project plans, in addition
to the KSER public space to include other mixed use amenities like a cafe and cultural arts like the Schack or Village Theatre.

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