

①

Tues. Nov. 12/2013

Re: Presentation to the Richmond
pertaining to our agriculture
From: Nancy Trout, 10100#3

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the
Regular Council meeting held on
Tuesday, November 12, 2013.

I believe a lot of elected officials think of a "legacy" to leave when their time is up as something big & seemingly glamorous, as, for example, the OVAH or other similar projects. To my mind, a legacy that really matters (& keeps on mattering over these past years) is one a previous government implemented called the AIR. Instead of becoming less important as the years roll by, it's become more and more relevant and, due to global warming & climate change, could even be a matter of life & death in the near future. Scientists have now "proven" that air pollution causes cancer. Next, ^{perhaps} we will be hearing that food from other lands which ~~is~~ not subject to strict controls, ^{& regulations} will also be "proven" to cause cancer by way of extreme use of pesticides, and all the many chemical concoctions used to keep things growing. Maybe most people take dirt for granted and not realize its importance & yet the health of our soil, air, water, our living logs, oceans (forests) & so on, give us our good health, or lack thereof. The amazing facts are that agriculture & all the spin-offs from agriculture are a huge industry & getting bigger all the time. And yet, it's the oil & gas industry, dinosaurs from our past, that have to be replaced if

we are to continue as a species, that get most of the attention. A recent article on nutrition in the Van-Sun is headed "Plant a seed, grow a business". Farming is in again, people want to know what is in the food they buy & many now are growing their own food. Young people are starting businesses that cater to giving people the kind of food they want. Article after article is touting how important local & BI-grown food really is. And yet, we treat our A/R like city dumps; we pull land out of the A/R and say it is needed for other uses. Farmers in our area have proven without a doubt there are illegal, poisonous materials being dumped on this precious farmland and yet before farm police can be hired, after our trip to City Hall to say we'd take a hike in our taxes to protect this land from unscrupulous individuals, after the city officials said they supported the farmers and supporters the day of the tractor protest at City Hall, after volunteers gave their time & wrote letters, after all the forms were filled out & many hours of our city hall employees were used to figure out the exact cost per year, etc. after all these days & months of thinking something real was going to be done to keep ^{point} illegal dumping & farm land safe from predators (people), the last I read about ^{& meant} hired officials were balking again over the costs of one or two farm police & it needed more study.

insert
③ A recent news article titled Argentina: Is it poisoning its people? Agrochemicals & Pesticides, maybe the cause of health problems - from cancer to birth defects. Now some millions & millions of dollars can be spent ^{on projects} w/o batting an eyelash, whether we need them or not, and yet something of huge importance ^{like the ALR} needs more time for study and might be too expensive. Is it because of our ^{apathy} indifference to the Agric. Farmlands, that a sign on #3 Rd. near Fin ^{Rd.} states it has close to 20 acres for sale near the golf course where people can build their dreamhouse? This is on the ALR lands & instead of farming being the focus, it's on our greedy appetites for more & more material wealth and grandeur.

- in the country's
vast farm belt.

(Thank you for your time.)