



SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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TRANSMITTAL MEMO

TO: Planning Commission
CC: Erika Shook, AICP, Director, DCD
Mike Thomas, County Manager
FROM: Adam Zack, Planner II *AZ*
VIA: Linda Kuller, Planning Manager, DCD *LK*
SUBJECT: 2036 Comprehensive Plan Update
Work Session: Direction for Vision amendment recommendations
DATE: January 9, 2018
BRIEFING: Planning Commission: January 19, 2018
ATTACHMENT: Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Issue: In August 2017, the Department of Community Development (DCD) began the review process of the Comprehensive Plan Vision. The next stage of this process is preparing recommendations for amendment or refinement of the Vision. Staff is asking the Planning Commission to provide direction for these recommendations during this work session. Proposed amendments will be presented to you at the February 16th meeting.

Work Session Purpose: To receive Planning Commission direction on possible amendments or refinement of the Vision based on review of public input.

Background: We will ask four questions about each element of the Vision:

- Does the statement need to be amended at all?
- If so, does the statement need a change to its specific wording?
- Is a change to its structure needed (such as separating topics within the statement)?
- Is additional language needed for this statement (such as adding reference to new topics)?

Staff will assist in considering the extensive public input summarized in the San Juan County Vision 2036 Update Process report (available here: <http://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/13890>). This report includes responses to the survey (Appendix D), the mini-poll (Appendix C), pop-up studios, and workshops conducted in October 2017 (Appendix B). Public response to the process was strong. The opinions captured in the report reflect a broad sampling of the community.

It is worth noting that much of the public input is not specific to the Vision. Many of the opinions shared relate to implementation of the Vision, i.e. policy changes or programs. We will consider the issues residents care about during the later stages of the coming update.

Next Steps: Staff will prepare draft amendments based on your direction and present them for your review at the meeting on February 16, 2018.

**Planning
Commission**

January 19, 2018

**Comprehensive Plan 2036 Update Work Session:
Vision Amendment Recommendations**

Adam Zack, Planner II

Purpose

- Review existing Vision for potential amendments
- Summarize public feedback from Vision Update 2036 report. Document link: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/13890>
- Generate Planning Commission direction for possible amendments

Process

- Recap existing Vision elements
- Recap key metrics from public engagement for each element
 - Grade, Gap, Priority
- Provide direction on amendments

Next Steps – February 16th Planning Commission Meeting

- Presentation of draft amendments
- Public comments on draft and PC discussion
- Planning Commission refinement of recommendations

Grade

The grade reflects how the community views each component of the vision statement.

From survey, 100 point scale, the higher the grade, the more community confidence in that Vision Statement element.



Gap

From the October workshops, groups used a 10 point scale to rate each statement element on where it is now and where it ought to be. The resulting difference is the gap.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{(Future Aspiration)} \\ & - \text{(Current Condition)} \\ & = \text{Gap} \end{aligned}$$



Priority

The priority indicates the level of needed resources each element requires.

From October Workshops. Groups applied limited resources to each statement element.



Begin Work Session

- Review existing statement element
 - Presented in order of lowest grade/higher gap
- Recap key metrics for each element
- Provide direction to staff

BASIC NEEDS (Page 25)

Our islands are places where all citizens can safely walk or play, day or night. The drinking water supply is clean and adequate. Health care and help in time of need are accessible and affordable. The supply of affordable housing is adequate to meet the needs of our diverse population.

BASIC NEEDS (Page 25)

- **Lowest Grade 63/100**
- **Highest Gap 4.39**
- **Highest Priority 4.1**

Core Issues

- Affordable Housing
- Safe Drinking Water
- Access to Healthcare

BASIC NEEDS (Page 25)

Is change needed?

Language?

Structure of statement?

Additional language, something missing?

TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION (Page 43)

We have water, land, and air transportation systems commensurate with our island culture. On-island circulation is by means of a system of scenic rural roads with automobile, bicycle and pedestrian ways functioning without conflict. In some places, the roads are unpaved, narrow, and winding, and care is taken to maintain a rustic quality in public signs. Expansion or new construction of basic public transportation facilities occurs only on the basis of demonstrated local public need. Advanced interactive communication systems are encouraged.

Transportation & Communication (Page 43)

- Grade 71/100
- Gap 3.9
- Priority 2.4

Core Issues

- Bike and Pedestrian Safety
- Reliance on Car for day-to-day needs
- Inclusion of Communication

Transportation & Communication (Page 43)

Is change needed?

Language?

Structure of statement?

Additional language, something missing?

ECONOMY (Page 31)

We support a pattern of economic growth and development which serves the needs of our community, and which recognizes the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural, marine and isolated nature of the islands. Our economy comprises a wide spectrum of stable, year-round activities that provide employment for islanders. We support and encourage traditional industries including forestry, farming, aquaculture, construction, fishing and tourism without jeopardizing the resources on which they depend. We have home occupations and cottage industries which are compatible with surrounding neighborhoods. We encourage new ideas and new technology for improving the quality and profitability of our goods and services. Value-added activities are encouraged. Environmental conservation and sustainable development are balanced.

ECONOMY (Page 25)

•Grade 75/100

•Gap 3.4

•Priority 2.5

Core issues

- Housing affordability and workforce
- Changes in resource-based economy
- Impacts of tourism
- Year-round, living wage jobs

ECONOMY (Page 25)

Is change needed?

Language?

Structure of statement?

Additional language, something missing?

ENERGY AND RESOURCES (Page 49)

Our community fosters resource and energy conservation. Energy independence is encouraged. Recycling, solid waste, and sewage treatment are managed within the confines of each island in an environmentally sound manner. Renewable natural resources are used on a sustainable basis. Nonrenewable resources are conserved wherever possible and practical.

ENERGY AND RESOURCES (Page 49)

•Grade 83/100

•Gap 3.9

•Priority 2.7

Core issues

- Waste Reduction
- Recycling
- Water resources
- Climate change not included

ENERGY AND RESOURCES (Page 49)

Is change needed?

Language?

Structure of statement?

Additional language, something missing?

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (Page 35)

Our islands have exceptional natural beauty and healthy diverse ecosystems surrounded by pollution-free marine waters. The air is fresh and clean, the water quality is excellent, and the soil is uncontaminated. As careful stewards of these islands, we conserve resources, preserve open space, and take appropriate action to assure healthy land and marine environments. Native plants and animals of the islands thrive, and are identified, appreciated and conserved.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (Page 35)

- **Grade 79/100**
- **Gap 3.1**
- **Priority 2.4**

Core issues

- Regional ecosystem fragility
- Drinking water resources
- Climate change not included
- Link between natural environment and the economy

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (Page 35)

Is change needed?

Language?

Structure of statement?

Additional language, something missing?

LAND USE (Page 39)

Neighborhoods, hamlets, villages and towns are clearly defined so as to conserve agricultural, forest, mineral resource and environmentally sensitive lands. These areas provide for commerce and community activities without losing their small scale and attractive island ambiance. There is housing for people of all incomes. The unique character of our shorelines is protected by encouraging uses which maintain or enhance the quality of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use strategies, our citizens and institutions balance and protect private property rights, public rights, and our natural environment.

LAND USE (Page 39)

•Grade 74/100

•Gap 3.0

•Priority 1.6

Core issues

- Rural Character and Open Space
- Housing
- Existing levels of development pose challenges to growth management

LAND USE (Page 39)

Is change needed?

Language?

Structure of statement?

Additional language, something missing?

GOVERNANCE (Page 55)

We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are equally represented by elected officials who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open manner which recognizes the independent, self-reliant nature of its citizens. Our government institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate services where practical, manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a timely manner.

GOVERNANCE (Page 55)

- **Grade 77/100**
- **Gap 3.3**
- **Priority 1.0**

Core issues

- Challenges in serving all islands
- Transparency in decision making
- Representation

GOVERNANCE (Page 55)

Is change needed?

Language?

Structure of statement?

Additional language, something missing?

Remaining Elements

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Grade 81, Gap 2.5, priority 1.3 • Report pg. 23 • Education • Grade 79, Gap n/a, priority n/a • Report pg. 29 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts, culture, & recreation • Grade 86, Gap 0.9, priority 0.4 • Report pg. 51 • Heritage and Historic Preservation • Grade 85, Gap 2.6, priority 0.7 • Report pg. 53 |
|--|---|

Questions?

Next Steps: Review Recommendations February 16

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<https://www.sanjuanco.com/list.aspx>

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