

Adam Zack

From: Sarah Pope <sarahpopegreene@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 11:57 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Public Comment for Planning Commission meeting March 16th, 2018

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

I would like to request the addition of a new stand-alone section to the Vision Statement dedicated to Agriculture.

I grew up on San Juan Island and recently moved back to raise my children in this community. Our choice to invest in a property here was guided by a desire to protect a beautiful corner of the San Juan Valley as farmland and to help ensure that agriculture is not just respected as part of the islands' history but remains central to their future. The farm community has been the islands' beating heart since before the influx of tourism and does much to contribute to the quality of life for all islanders and visitors. I ask that you honor this important facet of our local character by assigning proper weight to agriculture in the Vision Statement.

Why this is important:

Existing references to agriculture are scattered between several of the Vision Statement elements, but there is no statement that accurately reflects the importance of agriculture to our community.

There were abundant comments during the Vision Statement interviews, pop-up studios and workshops. Agriculture was the second most prevalent theme in the [Vision final report](#) and this demonstrates the community's desire to take bold measures to strengthen our local agricultural. Our updated Vision should reflect that desire with the addition of a Vision element dedicated to Agriculture.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Pope
Oak Knoll Farm