

Adam Zack

From: Ed Suij <edsuij@rockisland.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 11:12 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 have grown fruits and vegetables commercially for 25 years on Orcas.

Low carbon footprint (food miles), sustainability, food security, climate change, water allocation, disaster preparedness will be some of the serious issues that we will have to confront in the next 20 years. Preserving farmland for future generations, increasing fertility (carbon sequestering), access to land should be high on the list 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 and Agriculture was the second most prevalent theme in the Vision final report and this demonstrate 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,
Ed Suij, Orcas island