

## Adam Zack

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**From:** san olson <sanolson80@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2018 12:54 PM  
**To:** Comp Plan Update  
**Cc:** Suzanne & Dale Roundy; Steve Rubey  
**Subject:** Vision comments  
**Attachments:** SO Comments on Vision Statement Preamble and Basic Needs.doc

Please find my comments in the attachment below.

San Olson

From: San Olson (sanolson@centurytel.net)

Sent: Thursday 15 March 2018

To: [compplancomments@sanjuanco.com](mailto:compplancomments@sanjuanco.com)

Cc: Planning Commissioners Dale Roundy and Steve Rubey

Subject: <http://www.sanjuan/co.com/DocumentCenterView/14542>

1. First of all, my compliments to the County Staff, Planning Commission, and previous commenting citizens for the diligent and thoughtful work all contributed to the amendment process. Bearing in mind the prodigious amount of effort obviously required to make the persuasive changes to date, I ask for your indulgence in my attempt at additional word-smithing of the proposed amendments.
2. I approached the Vision Statement as if I were a person contemplating moving to the San Juans as a new resident. What were the messages of values, resources, and opportunities conveyed in the Vision produced by the government and citizens of the county? If you will, this statement is as much about who we are as it is an advertisement for prospective residents and business interests.
3. So beginning with the beginning, I chose to comment on the Preamble and Basic Human Needs. As a long term property owner and resident, I became troubled by the assumptions inherent in the choice of some words, particularly in that fundamental introduction. These assumptions concern me because they imply circumstances that do not conform with my experiences or general knowledge. Therefore, please accept my suggestions as it relates to these first two sections of the Vision Statements.

#### **PREAMBLE:**

line 2: “treasure of natural beauty and **abundance**, and that **independence**, privacy and personal freedom are”

Comment: It is not clear to me what is meant by 'abundance'. Does abundance mean an abundance of available land for development, affordable housing, potable water, living wage jobs, public beaches and parks, recreational opportunities, tourist accommodations, ferry service, or what? Without specificity the word has multiple contexts in which it might be utilized to describe copiousness or quantity.

I recommend striking **abundance** absent an indication of what is abundant. Islands by definition and geography have limitations. We do not live in an archipelago with an abundance of everything.

I prefer **interdependence** rather than independence. As islanders we are more dependent on neighbors and friends than people living in an urban environment. To emphasize independence is to suggest that we are exceptions to the need to cooperate, be neighborly, have concern for others, or actively participate in community as a working concept.

I recommend striking **privacy** as it is similar to personal freedom, but implies isolation which seems the opposite of interdependence. The passage could still read: “ and interdependence and personal freedom are both values prized by islanders.” They are not mutually exclusive values and either can be exercised under a variety of circumstances.

### **BASIC HUMAN NEEDS:**

Line 13.: “drinking water supply is clean, and **adequate**, and conserved as a vital resource.”

Comment: Where is the evidence that our drinking water supply is adequate, and adequate for what? Is there adequate water for all the current uses, for human consumption, for agriculture (including gardens), for landscape and lawns, for the hospitality industry? Will there be adequate water for a larger future population?

Many current wells are poor producers, others suffer from saltwater intrusion. Our aquifers are limited by recharge and as our climate changes and sea level rises our fresh water supply will be challenged to meet increasing demands, particularly in the summer months which is, of course, when the highest consumption occurs.

I recommend striking **adequate** unless some evidence of adequacy can be proven against an anticipated increased usage, commensurate with population projections, or a technical solution can be demonstrated as feasible, without environmental or economic damage.

Thank you for considering my comments.

San Olson, Lopez Island  
360 468 3116