

Adam Zack

From: Audra Lawlor <audra@girlmeetsdirt.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2018 11:15 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Agriculture in SJC

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

I am the owner and founder of Girl Meets Dirt, an award winning and nationally distributed specialty preserves maker based on Orcas Island. We source the vast majority of our fruit from the San Juan Islands and have a deep and vested interest in seeing agriculture not only maintained, but revitalized within this county. We have a meaningful story to tell- and a unique marketing opportunity given our history and location - we would love to see other farmers and makers benefiting from your support of agriculture in the future.

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

I request that the Planning Commission:

- 1). Adopt Staff Report OPTION C: --Add a standalone Agriculture section to the Vision1
- 2). ADD the following language proposed by the Agriculture Resource Committee2 to this new Agriculture section

AGRICULTURE

The San Juan Islands have a rich agricultural heritage that remains culturally and economically significant. We invest resources to ensure that agricultural lands are preserved and to maintain and enhance agricultural viability. We encourage regenerative practices and recognize the integral role that agriculture plays in the stewardship of our soils and water resources. Agricultural activities are essential to the health and well-being of our community, contributing to the social, economic and environmental fabric of our islands.

References:

1. Staff OPTION C: Recommendation can be found on page 3 of SJC Department of Community Development Staff Report dated March 29, 2018 found here: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/14761>
2. Agricultural Resource Committee recommended addition to the Vision Statement found here: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/14627>

Incorporating specific and direct references to our vision for agriculture that accurately reflect our vision for sustainability and a thriving agriculture community that benefits all - within the broader vision is imperative to carving out a place for ag within the county. Our business, and many, many others, depends on this support.

Please don't hesitate to reach out should you have questions.

Cheers & thanks,
Audra Lawlor

Audra Query Lawlor
Founder & President



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