

Adam Zack

From: Matt Claussen <cayman9@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 3:39 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Agriculture Vision - Comp Plan

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

My name is Matt Claussen and my wife and I run Red Roof Acres on San Juan Island. We moved here to start a farm and did that by buying land that had been a farm for the past 28 years. It was very important to us to continue the farming activity as a way to preserve a way of life and contribute to the local community. The spirit of farming, both physically and energetically, is one that has kept many community members vibrant and active on the islands, and has contributed to the community beyond than just a weekend farmers market. As a mid-west farm original, I understand the importance of supporting local farmers, professional crop growers, local farm/food markets and those that produce by-products of the agricultural industry to those who live and visit the San Juans. It is a way of life here and hopefully for many more years to come.

While it may be generally given a nod within the Comp Plan for the value of agriculture, there is no specific statement that reflects the importance of agriculture to our community.

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

Specifically, I request that the Planning Commission:

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

This is important for the future of the San Juans, to respect and acknowledge not only our historical perspective of our community but the future prospects that all contribute to the well being of San Juan

County. Agriculture is both our history and part of our future, that can contribute towards a better and invigorating future for San Juan County.

Respectfully,
Matt Claussen
Amy Herdy
Red Roof Acres, LLC