



SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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TRANSMITTAL MEMO

TO: County Council
CC: Erika Shook, AICP, Director, DCD
Mike Thomas, County Manager
FROM: Adam Zack, Planner II *AZ*
Linda Kuller, Planning Manager, DCD *LK*
SUBJECT: 2036 Comprehensive Plan Update: Vision amendments
DATE: April 23, 2018
BRIEFING: April 24, 2018
ATTACHMENTS: A. Planning Commission's Proposed Vision Amendments in Strikeout/Underline
Format Including a Revised Order of Statements
B. Planning Commission's Proposed Vision Amendments without Strikeout/Underline
Including a Revised Order of Statements
C. Public Comments on Vision dated March 16, 2018 through April 20, 2018

Issue: Planning Commission's recommended Vision amendments.

Requested Action: Set a joint public hearing on May 18, 2018, regarding the proposed vision amendments.

Background: the Planning Commission met April 20, their recommended amendments are included in Attachments A and B. The proposed amendments include three new statements on housing, climate change and agriculture, as well as a revised order of Vision topics. Attachment C contains the public comments submitted to Planning Commission between March 16 and April 20, 2018. Prior public comments were included in the April 9 briefing packet, dated March 29, 2018.

Next Steps: *May 18:* Joint Planning Commission/County Council public hearing on proposed recommendations. Planning Commission meeting and deliberations will follow the public hearing.
June 11 (tentative): County Council will consider Planning Commission's recommendation.

ATTACHMENT A. PLANNING COMMISSION'S PROPOSED VISION AMENDMENTS IN STRIKEOUT/UNDERLINE FORMAT INCLUDING A REVISED ORDER OF STATEMENTS

1 **PREAMBLE: WE THE PEOPLE** of San Juan County ~~recognize~~ value our healthy natural environment,
2 vibrant and diverse community, independence, self-sufficiency, interdependence, privacy and personal
3 freedom. ~~that~~ These rural islands are an extraordinary environmental treasure; of natural beauty and
4 abundance, and that independence, privacy and personal freedom are values prized by islanders. Being a
5 diverse people as a community bound together by these shared values, we declare our commitment to work
6 towards this vision of the San Juan Islands. ~~in 2020 A.D.~~

7
8 **COMMUNITY** We envision a community that is primarily rural, made up of islands of varying character, each
9 with its own unique qualities. The islands are places of peace and mutual tolerance, where ~~citizens~~ people of
10 differing backgrounds and beliefs respect each other's dignity, privacy, and freedoms. We communicate
11 effectively and openly and work together toward goals identified as being for the common good. We foster a
12 sense of neighborliness, of self-sufficiency, and community pride that has long been a part of our island
13 character.

14
15 **GOVERNANCE** We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are ~~equally~~ represented by elected officials
16 who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open manner ~~which~~
17 that recognizes the independent, self-reliant nature of its citizens. Our county borders the Province of British
18 Columbia, including the Gulf Islands, and several Washington State counties. Our elected officials and
19 government institutions communicate with and collaborate in our areas of mutual interest. Our government
20 institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate services where practical, manage
21 prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a timely manner.

22
23 **BASIC HUMAN NEEDS** Our islands are places ~~where all citizens can safely walk or play~~ people are safe,
24 day or night. The drinking water supply is clean, and adequate, and conserved as a vital resource.
25 Health care, elder and child care, and help in time of need are accessible and affordable. ~~The supply of~~
26 affordable housing is adequate to meet the needs of our diverse population. Making a life here is not limited
27 by lack of access to basic human needs.

28
29 **HOUSING** There is adequate, safe, affordable and stable housing so that our community thrives. There are
30 diverse housing types and we use innovative strategies to meet the various housing needs of our community
31 members.

32
33 **EDUCATION** Learning is a continuing lifelong process ~~which~~ that is encouraged and aided by the
34 community. A partnership of families and community creates a supportive and challenging environment
35 founded on academic excellence, ~~and~~ artistic expression, and availability of a wide range of educational
36 opportunities. This educational environment produces ethical, environmentally conscious, self-directed,
37 compassionate, and responsible world citizens, alive with the love of learning.

38
39 **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT** Our islands have exceptional natural beauty and healthy diverse ecosystems
40 surrounded by pollution-free marine waters. The air is fresh and clean, the water quality is excellent, and the
41 soil is uncontaminated. As careful stewards of these islands, we conserve resources, protect our shorelines
42 and critical areas, preserve open space, and take appropriate action to assure healthy land and marine
43 environments. The natural environment is central to the ecological health, quality of life, and the economy in
44 the islands. Native plants and animals of the islands thrive, and are identified, appreciated and conserved.

45
46 **ENERGY AND RESOURCES** Our community fosters resource and energy conservation. Energy
47 independence is encouraged. Water, soil, and local food production resources are proactively managed to
48 meet the needs of our community and future generations. Recycling, solid waste, and sewage treatment are
49 managed ~~within the confines of each island~~ in an environmentally sound manner. We use Renewable,
50 energy, materials, and natural resources are used on a sustainable basis. Nonrenewable resources are
51 conserved wherever possible and practical.

52
53 **CLIMATE CHANGE** Our community of islands sets an example with its response to climate change. We
54 proactively address the causes and effects of climate change such as sea level rise and drought.
55 Preparations to mitigate these effects are made in advance before they become crises. Our community
56 encourages voluntary efforts and enacts incentives and regulations if necessary to reduce our carbon
57 footprint. Carbon neutrality is our goal. Greenhouse gas emissions are limited.

ATTACHMENT A. PLANNING COMMISSION'S PROPOSED VISION AMENDMENTS IN STRIKEOUT/UNDERLINE FORMAT INCLUDING A REVISED ORDER OF STATEMENTS

1 **ECONOMY** We support ~~a pattern of economic growth and development~~ a diverse, resilient, and sustainable
2 economy while respecting the natural world, which serves This economy serves the needs of our
3 community, and ~~which recognizes~~ reflects the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural, marine and isolated
4 nature of the islands. Our economy comprises a wide spectrum of stable, year-round activities that provide
5 living or family wages, employment for allowing islanders- to live, work, and thrive locally. We support and
6 encourage traditional industries ~~including such as~~ forestry, ~~farming~~ agriculture, aquaculture, construction,
7 fishing and tourism without jeopardizing the ~~resources-~~ natural environment ~~on which they depend.~~ We ~~have~~
8 support and encourage home occupations and cottage industries ~~which enterprises~~ that are compatible with
9 surrounding ~~neighborhoods~~ areas. We encourage new ideas and new technology for improving the quality
10 and profitability of our goods and services. Advanced interactive communication systems are encouraged
11 support our economy. ~~Value-added activities are encouraged.~~ Environmental conservation and sustainable
12 ~~development are balanced.~~

13
14 **AGRICULTURE** The San Juan Islands have a rich agricultural heritage that remains culturally and
15 economically significant. We invest resources to ensure that agricultural lands are preserved and to maintain
16 and enhance agricultural viability. We encourage regenerative practices and recognize the integral role that
17 agriculture plays in the stewardship of our soils and water resources. Agricultural activities are essential to
18 the health and well-being of our community, contributing to the social, economic and environmental fabric of
19 our islands.

20
21 **LAND USE** ~~Neighborhoods~~ Hamlets, villages, and towns, and other activity centers are clearly defined so
22 as to conserve rural, agricultural, forest, mineral resource lands and environmentally sensitive lands critical
23 areas. These areas define our heritage and sense of place; ~~provide~~ providing for commerce and community
24 activities without losing their small scale and attractive island ambiance. ~~There is housing for people of all~~
25 ~~incomes.~~ The unique character of our shorelines is protected by encouraging uses ~~which that~~ maintain or
26 enhance the quality health of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use strategies, our citizens
27 and institutions balance and protect private property rights, public rights, and our natural environment.

28
29 **TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION** We have reliable, affordable, local, and regional water, land,
30 and air transportation systems commensurate with our island culture. On-island circulation is by means of a
31 system of scenic rural roads with automobile, bicycle and pedestrian ways functioning without conflict. In
32 some places, the roads are unpaved, narrow, and winding, and care is taken to maintain a rustic quality in
33 public signs. Transportation plans carefully consider cyclists, pedestrians, automobiles, public transportation,
34 and rural character. Expansion or new construction of basic public transportation facilities occurs only ~~on the~~
35 ~~basis of~~ based on demonstrated local public need. ~~Advanced interactive communication systems are~~
36 ~~encouraged.~~

37
38 **ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION** Our community nurtures the expression of its creative talents and
39 supports diverse cultural and entertainment activities. Our cultural facilities such as libraries, museums, and
40 theaters are focal points of activity and community support. Well-managed parks, trails, and shoreline
41 access, where appropriate, provide islanders with recreation with due regard for both the rights of private
42 property owners and the natural limitations of each site.

43
44 **HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION** Our community is enriched by a strong sense of identity,
45 tradition, legacy, and continuity, where past and present freely mingle. We recognize the contributions to our
46 rural, agricultural, and maritime heritage made by indigenous peoples, explorers, and island pioneers, ~~and~~
47 ~~encourage the preservation of that heritage.~~ We encourage preservation of our heritage, historic sites,
48 structures, and traditions for the enjoyment of all.

49
50 **OUR COMMITMENT: AS FORTUNATE CITIZENS OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS, WE COMMIT** ourselves
51 individually and communally to a future for ourselves and our children that reflects this vision. To this end,
52 we, the undersigned individuals dedicate our time and our talents.

ATTACHMENT B. PLANNING COMMISSION'S PROPOSED VISION AMENDMENTS WITHOUT STRIKEOUT/UNDERLINE FORMAT INCLUDING A REVISED ORDER OF STATEMENTS

PREAMBLE: WE THE PEOPLE of San Juan County value our healthy natural environment, vibrant and diverse community, self-sufficiency, interdependence, privacy and personal freedom. These rural islands are an extraordinary environmental treasure: as a community bound together by these shared values, we declare our commitment to work towards this vision of the San Juan Islands.

COMMUNITY We envision a community that is primarily rural, made up of islands of varying character, each with its own unique qualities. The islands are places of peace and mutual tolerance, where people of differing backgrounds and beliefs respect each other's dignity, privacy, and freedoms. We communicate effectively and openly and work together toward goals identified as being for the common good. We foster a sense of neighborliness, of self-sufficiency, and community pride that has long been a part of our island character.

GOVERNANCE We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are equally represented by elected officials who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open manner that recognizes the independent, self-reliant nature of its citizens. Our county borders the Province of British Columbia, including the Gulf Islands, and several Washington State counties. Our elected officials and government institutions communicate with and collaborate in our areas of mutual interest. Our government institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate services where practical, manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a timely manner.

BASIC HUMAN NEEDS Our islands are places people are safe, day and night. The drinking water supply is clean, adequate, and conserved as a vital resource. Health care, elder and child care, and help in time of need are accessible and affordable. Making a life here is not limited by lack of access to basic human needs.

HOUSING There is adequate, safe, affordable and stable housing so that our community thrives. There are diverse housing types and we use innovative strategies to meet the various housing needs of our community members.

EDUCATION Learning is a continuing lifelong process that is encouraged and aided by the community. A partnership of families and community creates a supportive and challenging environment founded on academic excellence, artistic expression, and availability of a wide range of educational opportunities. This educational environment produces ethical, environmentally conscious, self-directed, compassionate, and responsible world citizens, alive with the love of learning.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT Our islands have exceptional natural beauty and healthy diverse ecosystems surrounded by pollution-free marine waters. The air is fresh and clean, the water quality is excellent, and the soil is uncontaminated. As careful stewards of these islands, we conserve resources, protect our shorelines and critical areas, preserve open space, and take appropriate action to assure healthy land and marine environments. The natural environment is central to the ecological health, quality of life, and the economy in the islands. Native plants and animals of the islands thrive, and are identified, appreciated and conserved.

ENERGY AND RESOURCES Our community fosters resource and energy conservation. Energy independence is encouraged. Water, soil, and local food production resources are proactively managed to meet the needs of our community and future generations. Recycling, solid waste, and sewage treatment are managed in an environmentally sound manner. We use renewable, energy, materials, and natural resources on a sustainable basis. Nonrenewable resources are conserved wherever possible and practical.

CLIMATE CHANGE Our community of islands sets an example with its response to climate change. We proactively address the causes and effects of climate change such as sea level rise and drought. Preparations to mitigate these effects are made in advance before they become crises. Our community encourages voluntary efforts and enacts incentives and regulations if necessary to reduce our carbon footprint. Carbon neutrality is our goal. Greenhouse gas emissions are limited.

ATTACHMENT B. PLANNING COMMISSION'S PROPOSED VISION AMENDMENTS WITHOUT STRIKEOUT/UNDERLINE FORMAT INCLUDING A REVISED ORDER OF STATEMENTS

ECONOMY We support a diverse, resilient, and sustainable economy while respecting the natural world. This economy serves the needs of our community, and reflects the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural, marine and isolated nature of the islands. Our economy comprises a wide spectrum of stable, year-round activities that provide living or family wages, allowing islanders to live, work, and thrive locally. We support and encourage traditional industries such as forestry, agriculture, aquaculture, construction, fishing and tourism without jeopardizing the natural environment. We support and encourage home occupations and cottage enterprises that are compatible with surrounding areas. We encourage new ideas and new technology for improving the quality and profitability of our goods and services. Advanced interactive communication systems support our economy.

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.

LAND USE Hamlets, villages, towns, and other activity centers are clearly defined to conserve rural, agricultural, forest, mineral resource lands and critical areas. These areas define our heritage and sense of place; providing for commerce and community activities without losing their small scale and attractive island ambiance. The unique character of our shorelines is protected by encouraging uses that maintain or enhance the health of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use strategies, our citizens and institutions balance and protect private property rights, public rights, and our natural environment.

TRANSPORTATION We have reliable, affordable, local, and regional water, land, and air transportation systems commensurate with our island culture. On-island circulation is by means of a system of scenic rural roads with automobile, bicycle and pedestrian ways functioning without conflict. In some places, the roads are unpaved, narrow, and winding, and care is taken to maintain a rustic quality in public signs. Transportation plans carefully consider cyclists, pedestrians, automobiles, public transportation, and rural character. Expansion or new construction of basic public transportation facilities occurs only based on demonstrated local public need.

ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION Our community nurtures the expression of its creative talents and supports diverse cultural and entertainment activities. Our cultural facilities such as libraries, museums, and theaters are focal points of activity and community support. Well-managed parks, trails, and shoreline access, where appropriate, provide islanders with recreation with due regard for both the rights of private property owners and the natural limitations of each site.

HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION Our community is enriched by a strong sense of identity, tradition, legacy, and continuity, where past and present freely mingle. We recognize the contributions to our rural, agricultural, and maritime heritage made by indigenous peoples, explorers, and island pioneers. We encourage preservation of our heritage, historic sites, structures, and traditions for the enjoyment of all.

OUR COMMITMENT: AS FORTUNATE CITIZENS OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS, WE COMMIT ourselves individually and communally to a future for ourselves and our children that reflects this vision. To this end, we, the undersigned individuals dedicate our time and our talents.

2036 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE:

VISION AMENDMENTS

ATTACHMENT C

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON VISION DATED MARCH
16, 2018 THROUGH APRIL 20, 2018**

Friday, March 16, 2018
San Juan County Planning Commission Meeting
Agenda Item – March 1, 2018 draft Vision Amendments

Jane Hart
238 Straits View Dr.
Friday Harbor, WA

Good Morning and Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

My husband Paul and I are relative newcomers to San Juan Island. We moved here about a year ago from Portland Or where we lived and worked for about 30 years. We moved here to get back to our salt water roots, and live somewhere that my husband, who is a Brit, says we would be gobsmacked by nature each day, and so far that dream comes true, every day. We feel fortunate and blessed and proud to call this Island home.

Over the span of almost 40 years I have spent my career working primarily for the public sector in marine science, environmental and land use planning. I applaud the public involvement efforts that have occurred to date for the Comp. Plan update. Between the 22 one-on-one interviews, 3 studios on the different islands, and the online survey there have been many voices heard and discussions had about the future of the San Juan and Gulf Islands region. It is clear to me from participating in the workshop on San Juan Island and in reading some of the 4,000 plus comments for the on-line survey that the residents of the county care deeply about where they live and work, are articulate, smart and are one of the best resources the planning staff, County Council and Planning Commission have to tap in to.

During the October visioning workshop on San Juan Island one gentleman who had participated in the previous Comp Plan update 20 years ago described the incredible work of the citizen committee he participated on over several months to hash out the vision statement.

At that October workshops the public was told that the 20 year old Vision Statement would only need minor amendments to bring it up to

date. I think that assumption does not reflect the comments collected at the October workshop I attended, nor the 4,000 plus comments and subsequent testimony at the Commission's Jan. 19 and Feb. 2 meetings.

The Vision Statement work will set the tone for the rest of the comp. plan update, but it can't be done by staff alone. Staff and their consultants did a fabulous job collecting input from the public. Why not take advantage of the resources of these intelligent, experienced, and insightful residents that provided those 4,000 comments to re-craft a Vision that will take the combined County and Gulf Islands towards the future we and future generations deserve. I urge you to tap in to the residents, give them a role in the drafting the Vision Statement they can really own. Just think how much leverage there is by bringing the community wisdom and experience to this work as well as their good minds, hearts and willingness to dig in to the detail, and the devil is in the detail.

I know that this meeting is to hear specific proposed language changes to staff's March 1 draft Vision Statement. But the testimony I submitted at the Planning Commissions' Feb. 16 meeting still stands as my testimony for this meeting.

In summary, several of the statements in the present draft do not emphasize the importance of preserving scenic vistas and views both from the water towards the interior of the islands and from the land looking out to sea, as well as interior view of valleys and mountain ridges. Including words such as scenic vistas, natural scenic beauty, and preserve open spaces will help to define rural nature.

The vision statement leads to policies and regulations so we need to be sure action oriented language sets that stage. For example, language that emphasizes the importance of preserving the right for residents to have unimpeded views (within reason) of the natural beauty on the island. This could lead to the development of a Scenic overlay which could address careful siting and screening of development and establishing lower height limits. Even now some of the homeowners associations have taken it on their own to establish height limits, so the example already exists, but this needs to a county-wide requirement.

Also statements about protecting the night sky from light pollution could set the course for an outdoor lighting ordinance. I provided a such a sample ordinance to County Council at their Dec. 11 meeting when they discussed the Vision Statement.

The recent publication by the San Juan Preservation Trust and the Islands Trust in British Columbia called "A place in the Islands; How Private Land Owners Shape the Future of the San Juan and Gulf Islands" contains many non-regulatory suggestions to easily protect the sense of place that is special to the islands. The County could incorporate many of these suggestions in to the code.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony.

Adam Zack

From: David Kane <dbkane@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 4:18 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Vision Statement - Public Comment for April 20 Planning Commission Meeting

Planning Commission,

The addition of an Agriculture section to the Vision Statement would create the necessary foundational support to not only recognize the importance of Agriculture, but truly support, maintain and protect the rural character and pastoral landscapes we so value.

I would like to recommend that the Planning Commission:

- 1. Adopt Staff Report OPTION C¹: --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.

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>

Thank you,

David Kane
Pear Point Farm
David@pearpointfarm.com

Adam Zack

From: David & Geri <davidgeri@centurylink.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 9:54 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: comment

Hello,

As a supporter of agriculture, especially regenerative agriculture in our county, I would like to submit the following comment:

I recommend that the Planning Commission

- 1. Adopt Staff Report OPTION C¹: --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.

Thank you,
David Turnoy
Orcas Island

Adam Zack

From: SJAG Director <info@sjagguild.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 7, 2018 2:36 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: San Juan County Vision Statement

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

The San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild's mission is *to foster a vibrant, resilient and sustainable food system in San Juan County*. We do our work through the lens of advocating for ag-producers who often do not have the time "to be at the table." Our key goals are to encourage new farmers to San Juan County, collaborate to encourage ag-related economic growth through system improvements, and advocate on behalf of ag producers on policies and regulations that impact the culture and future of agriculture in San Juan County.

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 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.

Thank you for your consideration,

--

Steph Coffey

Executive Director
San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild
360-378-0095
PO Box 1945
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Adam Zack

From: Richard Anderson <rhanderson@centurytel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 11:24 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: County Vision Statement

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

I would see the County Vision Statement dedicate a section directly to Agriculture instead of trying to embrace it in a composite "vision". Specifically, I request that the Planning Commission clearly specify the value and role of Agriculture in San Juan County. There is interesting comment by a past county commissioner; "Everyone in the San Juan's loves agriculture, they love lavender farms not pig farms". Keep in mind that you cannot eat lavender.

Richard Anderson
San Juan Island Distillery/Westcott Bay Cider

Adam Zack

From: Learner Limbach <learner.limbach@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 6:21 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Cc: Erika Shook; Bill Watson; Mike Thomas; Linda Ann Kuller; Adam Zack
Subject: Vision Recommendations 4/9 from ARC to Planning Commission
Attachments: 2018-04-09 Vision Recommendations ARC to Planning Commission ADOPTED (1).pdf

Hello, please note the attached Memo from the Agricultural Resources Committee.

Thank you!

Best,

Learner Limbach
ARC Chair

--

Learner Limbach
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[Facebook](#)

[Orcas Food Co-op](#)
[Agricultural Resources Committee of San Juan County](#)
[NW Agriculture Business Center](#)



Agricultural
Resources
Committee
of San Juan County

Memorandum

To: SJC Planning Commission

CC: Adam Zack, Planner II, DCD
Linda Kuller, Planning Manager, DCD
Erika Shook, AICP, Director, DCD
Mike Thomas, County Manager
Bill Watson, County Council

From: San Juan County Agricultural Resource Committee (ARC)
Learner Limbach, Chair, ARC 

Date: April 9, 2018

Subject: Comments on *SJC Department of Community Development Staff Report* dated March 29, 2018.

Purpose

To provide the Planning Commission, County Council and County Planners with feedback and recommendations regarding the *SJC Department of Community Development Staff Report* dated March 29, 2018.

Background

The Agricultural Resource Committee is a Citizen Advisory Committee tasked with advising the County Council on issues affecting the Agricultural environment. The ARC is comprised of 15 voting seats, at least 50% of which must be farmers. ARC members act as listening posts throughout the islands and the ARC conducts formal and informal outreach throughout the year that informs the ARC's work.

March 16th - Planning Commission Meeting: ARC recommends adding a stand-alone Agriculture section to the Vision and provides specific language.

March 29th - SJC DCD Report lays out several options for the Planning Commission to consider, with a recommendation of **Option A- No action** in regards to adding a new section.

April 9th - Following the DCD Report dated March 29th the ARC submits a recommendation that the Planning Commission go with **Option C- Add a stand-alone agriculture section to the Vision.**

The ARC voted in favor of these recommendations by email vote concluded on April 9, 2018.

Attachment: The ARC's recommendations dated April 9, 2018 are attached.

Recommended Amendment to the San Juan County Vision

Adopted April 9, 2018 by the Agricultural Resources Committee of San Juan County.

Recommendations:

1. **Adopt *Staff Report* OPTION C¹: Add a stand-alone Agriculture section to the Vision**
2. **ADD the following 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.*

Why adding a stand-alone Agriculture section to the Vision makes sense:

- A fragmented approach to addressing Agriculture in the Vision weakens the overall message of both the Agriculture statement **and** the other statements.
- It was suggested that “if we add an Agriculture section we’ll have to give everyone a section” specifically referring to the possibility of adding a Tourism section. However, staff analysis in the March 29th memo states “Despite the amount of feedback received about tourism, there were few specific comments that proposed changes to the Vision and **none** (emphasis added) requested a separate tourism statement.” In stark contrast, “**Thirty-eight public comments** (emphasis added) and the Agricultural Resources Committee (ARC) requested the addition of a stand-alone agriculture statement.” Additionally, the ARC provided the specific statement to be considered.
- At the meeting on March 16th there was some uncertainty among Planning Commission members as to whether the request was for only a new statement in the Vision or to have a new element added to the Comp Plan as well. **The ARC is only requesting that an additional statement be added to the Vision** and feels that this new statement would complement additional consideration for agriculture in the areas of Economic Development, Land Use and Natural Resource Land Elements and goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan.
- According to findings from the [San Juan Islands Visitor Study](#) (page 50) published on February 28, 2018 Natural and Rural Scenery was voted as the #1 Most Important Island Experience during a ferry passenger survey.

¹ 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>

Adam Zack

From: Bruce Clark <firearts@rockisland.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 7, 2018 9:49 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: agriculture vision

We in the islands do not know what is coming at us in relation to climate and/or economic change. The best possible support for our residents in either case is strong local agriculture. We all need to eat and should not be nearly 100% dependent on off island sources as we are now. Local agriculture is a sustainable resource in difficult times, providing year round jobs for people with a stake in the community as well as a vital product, where, for example, tourism may not be.

Bruce Clark
Nancy Best
40 year residents
Gardeners
Purchasers of island grown products

Adam Zack

From: Bruce or Colleen Howe-Gregory <mbfarm@rockisland.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 8, 2018 8:20 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Vision statement round 2

I find it puzzling that given the input from citizens who care about agriculture and the many folks who practice the art of farming, that there seems to be a lack or failure to understand the desire to have a vision statement that is strongly in support of agriculture?

In SJC we have approximately 14,000 acres of agricultural land. That is almost a fifth of the total land area of the county. We certainly support your Option C and think it would be fantastic to honor the strong historic and ongoing contribution that agriculture has in our county. Please, add a standalone section to the vision.

Thanks for your consideration

Bruce or Colleen Howe-Gregory
Mitchell Bay Farm
1071 Mitchell Bay Rd.
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
360-378-2309
mbfarm@rockisland.com

Adam Zack

From: Kathy Kane <kathydkane@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 8, 2018 12:36 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Agriculture

I'd like to recommend that the SJC Planning Commission:

Adopt Staff Report Option C1: Add a standalone Agriculture section to Vision A, and to add the following language as proposed by the Agricultural 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.

Thank you for considering,

Kathy Kane
Pear Point Farm
kathydkane@gmail.com

Adam Zack

From: Lauren Storm <laurenkstorm@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 7, 2018 10:58 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: San Juan County Vision Statement

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

I am currently writing a business plan for an agricultural operation on San Juan Island. I am starting this business here because Washington State in general has a friendlier regulatory climate for agriculture than many other states, and on San Juan Island in particular because of its rural character. I feel including agriculture in the County Vision Statement is essential to the survival of small-scale commercial agriculture on the islands.

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 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.sanjuanico.com/DocumentCenter/View/14761>

2. Agricultural Resource Committee recommended addition to the Vision Statement found here:

<https://www.sanjuanico.com/DocumentCenter/View/14627>

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.

Sincerely,

Lauren Storm

laurenkstorm@gmail.com

Adam Zack

From: cannoncreek@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 8:44 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Agriculture's place in the upcoming Vision statement

My name is Court Bell. As a 27 year San Juan Island resident, a fourteen year principal in the San Juan Island School District, a gardener, and owner of 30 acres in San Juan Valley, I look forward to the County Council putting into words in the new Vision statement the value agriculture to the islands going forward into the future. The omission would be a serious neglect of carrying forward the vast heritage of agriculture in the islands into the future.

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 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.

Thank you, Court Bell, 662 Bigfoot Road, Friday Harbor.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Adam Zack

From: Ande Finley <andefinley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 6:14 PM
To: Comp Plan Update

I am writing once again to urge you to consider the addition of an Agriculture section to the Vision Statement.

I recommend that the Planning Commission adopt Staff Report Option C-1 which will add a stand-alone Agriculture section to the Vision.

I also recommend that the following language proposed by the Agriculture Resource Committee be added 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.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue,
Ande Finley
Lopez Island

Adam Zack

From: Jim Lawrence <jimmyjet60@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 10:54 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Fwd:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jim Lawrence** <jimmyjet60@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 11, 2018 at 10:43 AM
Subject:
To: compplancommenys@sanjuanco.com

SJC Planners, My name is Jim Lawrence, owner of Thirsty Goose Farm. Our farm was started in 1974 and is now in the hands of our daughter who continues to farm. We support a stand-alone section to the Vision Statement dedicated to Agriculture.

Thank you,
Jim Lawrence

Adam Zack

From: David Kane <dbkane@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 14, 2018 5:05 PM
To: Eleanor Hartmann
Cc: Comp Plan Update; david@pearpointfarm.com; Alice Deane
Subject: Re: Agriculture: San Juan County Vision Statement

Very nice! Thank you!!!

David Kane
Pear Point Farm
dbkane@gmail.com
(360) 298-4840

On Sat, Apr 14, 2018, 8:24 AM Eleanor Hartmann <ehartmann7@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

As a resident of our county who has spent many years working to support local agriculture for the nourishment and security of our community, specifically through the San Juan Island Food Co-op and by spending my food dollars almost exclusively on local products, I would like to ensure that the Vision Statement include a standalone Agriculture section.

Agriculture must remain culturally and economically significant for the continued integrity and security of our island community and for our survival in an uncertain future. To that end, we must support practices that guarantee stewardship of soil and water resources and limit fragmentation and construction on farmlands to ensure access to sufficient landscapes for growing food crops.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

- Eleanor Hartmann

Adam Zack

From: Eleanor Hartmann <ehartmann7@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 14, 2018 8:25 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Cc: david@pearpointfarm.com; Alice Deane
Subject: Agriculture: San Juan County Vision Statement

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

As a resident of our county who has spent many years working to support local agriculture for the nourishment and security of our community, specifically through the San Juan Island Food Co-op and by spending my food dollars almost exclusively on local products, I would like to ensure that the Vision Statement include a standalone Agriculture section.

Agriculture must remain culturally and economically significant for the continued integrity and security of our island community and for our survival in an uncertain future. To that end, we must support practices that guarantee stewardship of soil and water resources and limit fragmentation and construction on farmlands to ensure access to sufficient landscapes for growing food crops.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

- Eleanor Hartmann

Adam Zack

From: Glenn Hendrick <glennhendrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 14, 2018 8:47 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Agriculture in the Comp Plan

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

I have been involved in local Agriculture during all of my five years living on San Juan Island, and it has shaped my experience of the place and the community. For me, agriculture is inseparable from the identity of the San Juan Islands.

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 stand-alone Agriculture section to the Vision.

- 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.

Agriculture has been and is extremely important in the Islands, and I want to see sustainable farming and food security prioritized in our vision moving into the future.

Thanks, Glenn

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



audra@girlmeetsdirt.com
(360) 375-6269 (w)
(917) 405-2177 (c)

Handmade on Orcas Island
Jam shop @ www.girlmeetsdirt.com
Or visit us at 208 Enchanted Forest Road
Eastsound, Washington

Adam Zack

From: A Longley <alongley_2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2018 3:26 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Suggested addition to the Comprehensive Plan regarding agriculture in San Juan County

To the Planning Commission:

I am a long-time islander (well, since 1980, anyway), working to fulfill my dream of building a home on my 5 acres on San Juan Island and farming in a small way (thus far). I am writing to urge you to add language to the comprehensive plan that makes clear the importance of agriculture in our county. In our ferry-dependent islands, climate change and "the Big One", for example, are looming disasters that robust local sustainable farming can potentially mitigate. The following statement mentions additional factors that clarify the importance of agriculture here, and I recommend you add this statement to the Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you very much,
Alison Longley
alongley_2000@yahoo.com

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.

Adam Zack

From: Ed Suij <edsuij@rockisland.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2018 9:43 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: comment for the April 20 meeting of the Planning Commission

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

My name is Ed Suij.

I have lived on Orcas since 1983 and have been involved in growing and selling organic fruit and vegetables commercially for 25 years.

We all know that the major task for the next generation will be the reduction of CO2 emissions to avoid a global catastrophe of runaway temperature rise, which will affect all sections of society. How can The San Juan Islands contribute to this task? Or do we expect the rest of the world to do this for us? There are two major components. Reforestation and agriculture.

Organic agriculture can play a major role in carbon sequestering. Furthermore we can not let our food production fall in the hands of a few global corporations, who will poison us with chemicals and ruin the land. The enormous dead zone at the mouth of the Mississippi in the gulf of Mexico is proof. So food security, or rather "healthy food" security is a major topic to contemplate.

Most food products in our supermarkets have travelled on average 1500 miles, with an enormous carbon foot print. We can reduce that tremendously by producing most of our food needs locally and thus contribute to CO2 reduction.

There is a lot of talk about a great upcoming earthquake that could upset most of the food supply lines for a long time. So Local agriculture can play a big role in disaster preparedness and might be vital in case of "the Big One".

Tourists come here for the open space and the rural atmosphere, the feeling of differentness from the mainland. Who maintains and works in this open space? Yes, farmers. The attractiveness of these islands depends on a healthy agriculture community. It creates local and healthy jobs, and creates a sense of community. Agriculture is the historical backbone of the landscape. It is our heritage.

So, yes of course it makes absolutely sense to have an "Agriculture" section in the Vision Statement.

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 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.

Thank you for listening.

Adam Zack

From: Nova • Ursa Minor <nova@ursaminorlopez.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 1:20 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: AGRICULTURE

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

I am one of the owners of Ursa Minor, a restaurant that heavily relies on agriculture as we source most of our food from local farms and other food purveyors. 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 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>

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.

Much thanks!!

Nova Askue
Co-owner & Brand Manager

URSA
MINOR

[Lopez Island, WA](#)
www.ursaminorlopez.com
[360.622.2730](tel:360.622.2730)



Adam Zack

From: LCLT - Sandy Bishop <lclt@rockisland.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 2:39 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Ag vision comments

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

I've commented before about the importance 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 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.

Thanks for your work on behalf of our community - Sandy

Sandy Bishop
Lopez Community Land Trust
Executive Director
PO Box 25
Lopez Island WA 98261
360.468.3723 (P) 360.468.3724 (F)
www.lopezclt.org

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

Adam Zack

From: Thrinley DiMarco <thrinley@ncreek.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 12:39 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Agriculture addition to the SJC vision statement

April 18, 2018

Dear San Juan County Planning Commission,

My name is Thrinley DiMarco and I live on SJ Island. I am a hobby gardener, when I have time, not a farmer. However I highly value organically grown local food, open space and farms/farmers. Crops grown without the pesticides normally used are critical to our health and the health of the planet.

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 stand-alone 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.

Thank you for considering these suggestions.

Thrinley DiMarco

Adam Zack

From: Sunnyfield Farm <sunnyfieldonlopez@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 2:28 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Please include a stand-alone AG section

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

I own/operate Sunnyfield Farm, a goat dairy on Lopez. We are the only producers of yogurt in the whole county, and the only dairy that currently sells any dairy products at Farmer's Markets in the county. Farming needs all the support it can get. We need more farmers and I feel that starts with a good, strong vision statement rather than ag references scattered here and there.

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 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.

Thanks

Andre Entermann

Sunnyfield Farm

Adam Zack

From: Kay Keeler <kaykeeler33@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 2:52 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Vision To Include A Separate Statement in The Impirtance Of Agriculture

We have been visiting The San Juan Islands since 1987 and have been living on Lopez Island for almost 11 years. As a board member for The Lopez Community Land Trust, I was educated for six years on the power of the organic pollution-free food that was available from the farms here and transformed that understanding to buying local as much as possible. My husband Dr. George Keeler and I moved here because of the amazing community that is present here, but feel strongly that San Juan County should nourish the niche of folks coming here to get away from the pollution of most if the rest of the world and eating great food at restaurants featuring food harvested from our farms and surrounding sea. That young farmers are replacing what averaged to be farmers in their 60s, is an indication of that The SJC Vision should include a strong statement that enhances farming and fishing here.

Kay Keeler
241 Eagle's Roost Lane
Lopez Island WA 98261
Home: 360 468-3630
Mobile: 301 257-3081

Adam Zack

From: Josh Ratza <joshratza@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 2:46 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Input from Lopez

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

My name is Josh Ratza. I own a small noodle bar here on Lopez and we use as much local food as we can get, both from the San Juans as well as the Skagit Valley. The idea of eating local not only sounds good but it really is grounding in a way that is incomparable to any other food experience. I've fed so many people that I've lost count and I cannot tell you how many conversations I've had about this. It shows who we are as a community by smell and taste and brings to your body the energy of the San Juans. I know this may sound a little weird but it really does. And so I hope you will consider the following:

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 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>

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.

Thank you for your time,

Josh Ratza

Setsunai Noodle Bar / Kraut Pleasers Fermentations

Adam Zack

From: Faith Van De Putte <faithvdp@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 2:42 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Please add a stand alone Agriculture section to the vision statement.

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

I am a farmer and fourth generation islander who has seen the changes that have happened in this county over the last 40 years. Agriculture is vitally important to maintaining the culture of our islands, stewarding the land, maintaining the rural character and nourishing our communities. Because it is so important I strongly urge you to adopt the following stand alone Agriculture section to the vision statement:

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.

Thank you for your work on this and for considering this comment.

Sincerely,
Faith Van De Putte

Midnight's Farm
Lopez Island, WA
faithvdp@gmail.com
360-468-3269 farm
206-551-5260 cell

Adam Zack

From: Susan Bill <arbordoun@rockisland.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 9:25 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: the agricultural vision statement

I understand that I missed the opportunity to address and support this idea before your meeting today!

I hope there was enough support from the community for it to pass.

Thank you.

Susan Bill

Adam Zack

From: cwflizscranton@gmail.com on behalf of Liz Scranton <cwf@rockisland.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 10:08 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Comment to Planning Commission

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

My name is Liz Scranton, my wife, Teri Linneman and I have a small orchard and garden that provides food for our household. We also raise chickens. We support our local farmers through our purchases of meat and vegetables and are very committed to eating local, organic, sustainably grown food. Local agriculture is extremely important to us and we do not want the local, rural farm character of the islands to be undermined. Food security is of great importance, as is the view corridors.

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 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.

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2. Agricultural Resource Committee recommended addition to the Vision Statement found here: <https://www.sanjuanico.com/DocumentCenter/View/14627>

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.

I feel that this is of utmost importance to our community.

Sincerely,

Liz Scranton

4559 Center Road

Lopez Island, WA 98261

360-622-9299

--

Liz Scranton

Custom Wood Finishes

www.lizscranton.com

Adam Zack

From: Timothy P. Blanchard <tim@blanchardmanning.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 11:15 PM
To: joe symons
Cc: Pete Moe (petemoe@gmail.com); fred klein; Natalie Menacho; Keara Axelrod; Sam Dillingham; Lynda Guernsey; Comp Plan Update
Subject: Re: Conversation with Plan Ahead San Juans on Wednesday afternoon 18 April 2018

Thanks. And thanks for your attention to these important matters for our community.

Timothy P. Blanchard
Blanchard Manning LLP
O: [360.376.2292](tel:360.376.2292)
C: [310.925.9646](tel:310.925.9646)

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Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 19, 2018, at 6:45 PM, joe symons <joesymons@me.com> wrote:

Thank you both for coming to share your ideas and perspective regarding the work you are doing with/for the Planning Commission regarding the update to the Comp Plan, and in particular your current work on the Vision Statement.

I feel you are approaching this challenge with sincerity, wisdom, intelligence, hard work and real sensitivity to the complexity of the many forces that need to be considered. I truly appreciate it, especially in the context of how things have (not) worked in the past.

I am grateful that the original vision statement crafted 25+ years ago is still pretty much the anchor for the current vision, showing how consistent residents are. It appears that the same values and concerns expressed then are even more significant, and I appreciate the care you are taking in weaving new threads into this old strong fabric.

What concerns me the most is that your work, not only on the Vision, but in subsequent efforts on the CP and, I assume, the UDC, will be truly honored in the final signed document. As you know, the current Vision is essentially window dressing. I hope the revised Vision will be anchored by a UDC that supports it rather than ignores it.

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driven one, will require considerable dexterity, wisdom and community buy-in. Right now the opportunity for real conversations doesn't exist.

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In the docket application I have submitted, and in other emails, I reference a summary web page regarding what constitutes a buildout analysis, which includes impacts. The link to this page follows:

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One area that begs for translation is the definition of so many critical "feel good" terms in the vision statement, such as "rural", "community", "local need", "isolated nature", and many others that I've discussed in my formal comments sent to the PC following your January workshop and in anticipation of your 16 march hearing.

I believe I can speak for the other members of the PASJ team in thanking you for your time and dedication to not only sharing your views with us, but for the far more significant time you have, are, and will be devoting to this update.

Please let us know how we can facilitate the conclusions you come to, support your work, disseminate the findings, create community conversation opportunities, and ensure that we have a plan that truly honors our vision.

Thanks again.

Joe Symons

—

carpe diem

Adam Zack

From: Jay Kimball <jay@mountaincedar.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 7:30 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Cc: Foster Hildreth; Vincent Dauciunas; BrianLSilverstein
Subject: OPALCO updates to recent county comp plan vision statement
Attachments: OPALCO - Comp Plan Vision Statement Recommendations.pdf

Please see the attached PDF with recommended changes to the recent county update to the comp plan Vision Statement.

Thank you,

Jay Kimball, Vince Dauciunas, Brian Silverstein, for OPALCO

OPALCO Commentary on San Juan County Comp Plan updated Vision Statement

18 April 2018

Vision, Values and Priorities

Background Narrative

The Comp Plan has the power to transform San Juan County into a model community that values and empowers its citizens, now, and for future generations. For all of us - rich and poor, young and old, growing up, working and retired.

From an energy perspective, OPALCO's goal is to ensure reliable, secure, ample, affordable, and environmentally sound energy. OPALCO will source as much of its energy as possible from energy resources that are low carbon, renewable and, increasingly, local.

Over the past few decades, growth of the county has significantly changed the Island community and our way of life. On a finite planet, in our finite archipelago, our growth is, of course, finite.

While growth may be finite, there are things we can grow that are beyond traditional economic metrics. Like a garden, we can grow energy independence, abundance and resilience by planting the seeds for local renewable energy. We can grow clean air and water. We can grow affordable housing. We can grow more efficient homes and businesses. We can grow good jobs that pay more than just a living wage.

Our rural economy has been driven largely by tourism. As we transition to modern internet communication services, we see new opportunities for jobs beyond that legacy tourist sector. Clean tech jobs, telecommuting workers from nearby Seattle, and further south, all the way to California.

Climate change will cause a reshuffling of where people want to and can afford to live. The Southwest will become increasingly parched, driving those who are looking for a more affordable, climate friendly place to settle. This will further challenge our housing market. The Comp Plan can inspire and incentivize ways to optimize our town centers to avoid traffic congestion, increase walking and biking, maintain and celebrate our natural beauty, reduce carbon footprint.

Our population, which is about 15 years older than the WA state average, will benefit from improvements in our communications infrastructure, setting the stage for rapid improvements in telemedicine, and deepening connection with metropolitan healthcare centers.

A low-carbon economy is an interconnected economy, where energy, water, transportation, housing, and environment work as a cohesive whole, building on the synergy that springs from efficient alignment of these Comp Plan elements. For example, looking over some of the Comp Plan material below from other municipalities, we see how:

- Climate changing sea-level rise shifts how a county thinks about shoreline development
- Seashores that will be lost to sea level rise become designated as parks, freed of roads, with walking and bike paths
- An increase in electric mass transit buses and vans reduce the need for parking in town centers
- The transition to electric vehicles leads to increased deployment of charging infrastructure
- Town plans favor easy access central parking for cleaner vehicles, with fossil fuel vehicle parking on the outskirts of town centers
- Affordable housing clusters embrace all forms of energy efficiency, including heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and EV charger equipped parking, as well as EV Zip cars
- Self-healing micro-grid systems located near town centers help maintain critical community services in the presence of extended outages

For inspiration, vision and goals, the county need look no further than Washington state, who, along with California and New York, co-chair the U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of states and unincorporated self-governing territories in the United States that are committed to upholding the objectives of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change within their borders, by achieving the U.S. goal of reducing greenhouse gas (carbon dioxide equivalent) economy-wide emissions 26–28% from 2005 levels by 2025 and meeting or exceeding the targets of the federal Clean Power Plan.

San Juan County can meet and even exceed those benchmarks, with our very clean energy, powering very clean heating and transportation, which consume over 90% of county energy and produce over 70% of county carbon footprint.

Collectively, the 14 members of the U.S. Climate Alliance represent more than 33% of the US population, over \$7 Trillion of U.S. GDP, with about 1.3 million energy efficiency and renewable energy related jobs.

Alliance members strategic goals include growing clean energy economies and creating new jobs, while reducing air pollution, improving public health, and building more resilient communities.

All of those goals are pertinent to our county.

Washington state is also a member of the Pacific Coast Collaborative, With a combined population of 54 million and a GDP of \$3 trillion, Alaska, British Columbia, California, Oregon and Washington are poised to emerge as a mega-region and global economic powerhouse driven by innovation, energy, geographic location and sustainable resource management, attracting new jobs and investment while enhancing an already unparalleled quality of life.

The Pacific Coast Collaborative is a formal basis for cooperative action, a forum for leadership and information sharing, and a common voice on issues facing Pacific North America. Recent actions are aimed at combating ocean acidification and changing ocean conditions as an immediate and critical threat to coastal economies and ecosystems.

Strategic imperatives include: **Managing regional growth** – An estimated 14.6 million new residents in the next twenty years will bring population pressures to Pacific North America, including urban sprawl and congestion. Smart land use choices, water policies and transportation planning will be needed to maintain the quality of life and distinctiveness of our communities. **Addressing impacts of climate change** – Shifting precipitation patterns, accelerated sea level rise and severe weather events will threaten property and infrastructure leading to higher economic and social costs from north to south.

Again, all of this is pertinent to our county.

Climate Change Impact on Food Production

Food production in much of the US (and the world), will be negatively impacted by climate trends - extreme weather, extended droughts, extreme rainfall, temperature extremes, ocean acidification. This translates into economic stress, reduced food production, all unfolding in the presence of population growth. This will likely drive climate refugee movement from areas of maximum climate stress to areas of lesser impact. As discussed in the population section below, the Northwest may be an area of lesser impact, attracting climate refugees from the southwest and beyond. This may put pressure on our ability to import sufficient food and on local food production capabilities, resulting in food price inflation and food shortages. Developing a more robust local food production capacity is important. Exploring ways to increase an abundance of land and sea food sources in our county is essential.

Comprehensive Goals and Strategies

Make San Juan County more resilient, diverse, balanced, stable, and self-sufficient community, preserving the Island's unique natural, rural character and creating a better future for islanders and the Islands themselves.

Manage county development in ways that are sustainable and within the carrying capacities of our natural resources and community.

Stimulate a vital, balanced, local economy that is more self-reliant and more diverse.

Produce as much of our essentials, such as food and energy, as we can, and convert our waste into useful products.

Address climate change by reducing use of fossil fuels, harnessing renewable energy sources, and adapting to anticipated impacts on the Vineyard.

Sustain our year-round community by addressing housing affordability and the high cost of living.

Direct development to town and village areas and limit building in environmentally sensitive areas.

Encourage compact, mixed-use, walkable town and village centers.

Prepare for climate change - Assess the vulnerability of the county to the diverse impacts related to climate change and plan accordingly to conserve human and natural resources.

Identify lands and infrastructure most at risk to sea level rise - A Climate Action Plan should be prepared that identifies lands at greatest risk from sea-level rise, based on considerations such as previous shoreline change, topography, and a likely range of sea-level change. It should identify areas likely to become underwater, wetlands, or subject to storm surges. This Plan should identify the measures that the County should use to adapt to and/or mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Limit construction in areas at greatest risk and adopt measures to limit impacts. Construction – or reconstruction after storm damage – of buildings or infrastructure should be prohibited in the most highly susceptible areas, including areas which would prevent wetlands from migrating inland so they can continue to play their essential ecological/ environmental roles. Buildings that are damaged in storm surges may contribute significant impacts as toxins, debris and septage enter ponds and bays, affecting water quality, shellfish, and public use of these resources. Building codes should be updated to ensure higher elevations and distance from shorelines as protection from storms and flooding.

Preserve lands that are susceptible to climate change impacts as open space. Acquire lands in areas identified as highly susceptible to flooding (but not soon to be lost to erosion) – especially if they are ecologically important or serve some other open space purpose. Federal pre-disaster mitigation funds may be used acquire land to undeveloped properties that cannot be mitigated.

Carry out pre-disaster mitigation to reduce impacts from climate change, storms and flooding. For example, more aggressive fire-wise strategies such as removal of fuels and their replacement with native vegetation would help deal with the anticipated increased summer fire hazard. Floodplain regulations should be updated to address storms and coastal flooding.

Transition to a more diverse and balanced year-round economy that enables those who grow up here to stay or return, helps year-round residents lead productive lives, and fortifies the seasonal aspects of the economy.

Strengthen and balance the economy, to support local ownership, reduce dependence on imports, increasing local resilience, and to increase year-round jobs with living wages.

Encourage and develop opportunities for low-impact, home-based businesses.

Recommended Language

ATTACHMENT B. PLANNING COMMISSION'S MARCH 16 PROPOSED VISION AMENDMENTS WITHOUT STRIKEOUT/UNDERLINE FORMAT

Additional suggestions from OPALCO in ~~Strikeout~~/Underline

PREAMBLE: WE THE PEOPLE of San Juan County value our healthy natural environment, vibrant and diverse community, self-sufficiency, interdependence, privacy and personal freedom. These rural islands are an extraordinary environmental treasure: as a community bound together by these shared values, we declare our commitment to work towards this vision of the San Juan Islands.

COMMUNITY We envision a community that is primarily rural, made up of islands of varying character, each with its own unique qualities. The islands are places of peace and mutual tolerance, where people of differing backgrounds and beliefs respect each other's dignity, privacy, and freedoms. We communicate effectively and openly and work together toward

goals identified as being for the common good. We foster a sense of neighborliness, of self-sufficiency, and community pride that has long been a part of our island character.

BASIC HUMAN NEEDS Our islands are places people are safe, day and night. The drinking water supply is clean, adequate, and conserved as a vital resource. Health care, elder and child care, and help in time of need are accessible and affordable. Making a life here is not limited by lack of access to basic human needs.

EDUCATION Learning is a continuing lifelong process that is encouraged and aided by the community. A partnership of families and community creates a supportive and challenging environment founded on academic excellence, artistic expression, and availability of a wide range of educational opportunities. This educational environment produces ethical, environmentally conscious, self-directed, compassionate, and responsible world citizens, alive with the love of learning.

ECONOMY We support a diverse, resilient, and sustainable economy while respecting the natural world on which we and our economy depends. This economy serves the needs of our community, and reflects the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural, marine and isolated nature of the islands. Our economy comprises a wide spectrum of stable, year-round activities that provide living or family wages, allowing islanders to live, work, and thrive locally. We support and encourage traditional industries such as forestry, agriculture, aquaculture, construction, fishing and tourism without jeopardizing the natural environment. We support and encourage home occupations and cottage enterprises that are compatible with surrounding areas. We encourage new ideas and new technology for improving the quality and profitability of our goods and services. Advanced interactive communication systems accessible to all are developed to support our economy and community.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT Our islands have exceptional natural beauty and healthy diverse ecosystems surrounded by pollution-free marine waters. The air is fresh and clean, the water quality is excellent, and the soil is uncontaminated. As careful stewards of these islands, we conserve resources, protect our shorelines and critical areas, preserve open space, and take appropriate action to assure healthy land and marine environments. The natural environment is central to the ecological health, quality of life, and the economy in the islands. Native plants and animals of the islands thrive, and are identified, appreciated and conserved.

LAND USE Hamlets, villages, towns, and other activity centers are clearly defined to conserve rural, agricultural, forest, mineral resource lands and critical areas. These areas define our heritage and sense of place; providing for commerce and community activities without losing their small scale and attractive island ambiance. The unique character of our shorelines is protected by encouraging uses that maintain or enhance the health of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use strategies, our citizens and institutions balance and protect private property rights, public rights, and our natural environment.

TRANSPORTATION We have reliable, affordable, local, and regional water, land, and air transportation systems commensurate with our island culture. On-island circulation is by means of a system of scenic rural roads with automobile, bicycle and pedestrian ways functioning without conflict. In some places, the roads are unpaved, narrow, and winding, and care is taken to maintain a rustic quality in public signs. Transportation plans carefully consider cyclists, pedestrians, automobiles, public transportation, the electrification of transportation, and rural character. Expansion or new construction of basic public transportation facilities occurs only based on demonstrated local public need and with an objective of reducing our carbon footprint.

ENERGY AND RESOURCES Our community fosters resource and energy conservation sustainability, independence and resilience with a focus on reducing our carbon footprint. Energy independence is encouraged. Water, soil, and local food production resources are

proactively managed to meet the needs of our community and future generations. Reducing, reusing and recycling solid waste, and sewage treatment are managed in an environmentally sound manner. We use renewable, energy, materials, and natural resources on a sustainable basis. Nonrenewable resources are conserved ~~wherever possible and practical.~~ and replaced by renewable resources whenever practical.

ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION Our community nurtures the expression of its creative talents and supports diverse cultural and entertainment activities. Our cultural facilities such as libraries, museums, and theaters are focal points of activity and community support. Well-managed parks, trails, and shoreline access, where appropriate, provide islanders with recreation with due regard for both the rights of private property owners and the natural limitations of each site.

HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION Our community is enriched by a strong sense of identity, tradition, legacy, and continuity, where past and present freely mingle. We recognize the contributions to our rural and maritime heritage made by indigenous peoples, explorers, and island pioneers. We encourage preservation of our heritage, historic sites, structures, and traditions for the enjoyment of all.

GOVERNANCE We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are equally represented by elected officials who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open manner that recognizes the independent, self-reliant nature of its citizens. Our county borders the Province of British Columbia, including the Gulf Islands, and several Washington State counties. Our elected officials and government institutions communicate with and collaborate in our areas of mutual interest. Our government institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate services where practical, manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a timely manner.

HOUSING There is adequate, safe, affordable and stable housing so that our community thrives. There are diverse housing types and we use innovative strategies to meet the various housing needs of our community members. New homes will incorporate contemporary best practices and building standards in efficiency and conservation of energy, water and waste resources.

CLIMATE CHANGE Our community of islands sets an example with its response to climate change. We proactively address the causes and effects of climate change such as sea level rise and drought. Preparations to mitigate these effects are made in advance before they become crises. Our community encourages voluntary efforts and enacts incentives and regulations if necessary to reduce our carbon footprint. Carbon neutrality is our goal. ~~Greenhouse gas emissions are limited.~~

OUR COMMITMENT: AS FORTUNATE CITIZENS OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS, WE COMMIT ourselves individually and communally to a future for ourselves and our children that reflects this vision. To this end, we, the undersigned individuals dedicate our time and our talents.

Adam Zack

From: summer m scriver <summer@rockisland.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 10:44 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: San Juan county vision statment

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

I Summer Moon Scriver have lived on Lopez island for 39 years, and i am a avid gardener and farmer.

For me the importance of agriculture is huge and the ability to grow and raise our own food feeds my soul as well as our bodies! I believe that the following statement should be added to the San Juan county vision Statement,

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.

Thank you, Summer

Adam Zack

From: joe symons <joesymons@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 6:46 PM
To: Timothy P. Blanchard; Pete Moe (petemoe@gmail.com)
Cc: fred klein; Natalie Menacho; Keara Axelrod; Sam Dillingham; Lynda Guernsey; Comp Plan Update
Subject: Conversation with Plan Ahead San Juans on Wednesday afternoon 18 April 2018

Thank you both for coming to share your ideas and perspective regarding the work you are doing with/for the Planning Commission regarding the update to the Comp Plan, and in particular your current work on the Vision Statement.

I feel you are approaching this challenge with sincerity, wisdom, intelligence, hard work and real sensitivity to the complexity of the many forces that need to be considered. I truly appreciate it, especially in the context of how things have (not) worked in the past.

I am grateful that the original vision statement crafted 25+ years ago is still pretty much the anchor for the current vision, showing how consistent residents are. It appears that the same values and concerns expressed then are even more significant, and I appreciate the care you are taking in weaving new threads into this old strong fabric.

What concerns me the most is that your work, not only on the Vision, but in subsequent efforts on the CP and, I assume, the UDC, will be truly honored in the final signed document. As you know, the current Vision is essentially window dressing. I hope the revised Vision will be anchored by a UDC that supports it rather than ignores it.

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Please let us know how we can facilitate the conclusions you come to, support your work, disseminate the findings, create community conversation opportunities, and ensure that we have a plan that truly honors our vision.

Thanks again.

Joe Symons

—

carpe diem

Adam Zack

From: Chuenchom Sangarasri Greacen <chomsgreacen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 9:53 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Cc: Dale Roundy; Steven Rubey; Transition Lopez Island; Scott Finley; Lafferty, Liz; Kim Foley; Marisa James; Henning and Elizabeth; Bob Gerfy; Ron Metcalf; Michael Moore; Ande Finley
Subject: Transition Lopez Island Letter on the Ag component of the Comp Plan Vision Statement
Attachments: TLI on Ag - Comp Plan Vision Statement 2018.4.19l.docx

Dear County Members and Planning Commissioners,

Please see attached a comment letter on the latest draft of the Vision Statement of the Comp Plan.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Planning Commission for the greatly improved Vision Statement and the hard work that have gone into the deliberation of each revision. Thank you.

Best regards,
Transition Lopez Island



April 19, 2018

San Juan County Council
350 Court Street, No. 1
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Dear Council Members and Planning Commissioners,

Transition Lopez Island wishes to thank the Planning Commission for taking into consideration comments from citizens and groups, including our joint letter with Community Rights San Juan Islands dated March 14, 2018, and for improving the draft Vision Statement. Having reviewed the latest draft, we would like to submit another letter in order to weigh in specifically on the issue of agriculture.

We would like to endorse Agricultural Resource Committee's proposal to create a separate stand-alone section for agriculture. In the past, we have seen the ups and downs of the agricultural sector. But looking forward in the next 20 years, agriculture is rising in significance as an economic activity, as our island cultural identity and landscape, as well as an integral part of our social fabric and our stewardship of the land, soil, water and the vibrant ecosystem of the islands.

So please consider adopting the following text in the vision statement as a stand-alone "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

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Transition Lopez Island Steering Committee

Chom Greacen
Ande Finley
Scott Finley
Kim Foley
Bob Gerfy
Marisa James
Liz Lafferty
Ron Metcalf
Mike Moore
Henning Sehmsdorf

Adam Zack

From: Jane Ward <jazirehjane@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 12:34 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: protect agricultural land use in San Juan County

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

I am a long-time Lopez resident who values agricultural land use. I highly value living among farmers, having access to locally-grown food, and I love the Lopez landscape with open fields and grazing cows, sheep and horses.

The development pressures are significant, and I urge you to what you can to protect agricultural land use from being converted to other uses.

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 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>

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.

Thank you very much for taking my concerns under consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Jane W. Ward

Public Comment on Vision Statement

To: SJC Planning Commission

From: Zach Rowland

Date: 4/18/2018

I recommended the Planning Commission amend the San Juan County Vision Statement as follows:

1. **Adopt *Staff Report* OPTION C¹: Add a stand-alone Agriculture section to the Vision Statement.**
2. **ADD the following 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.*

¹ *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>*

Thank you,

Zach Rowland

Public Comment on Vision Statement

To: SJC Planning Commission

From: Greg Meyer - Dancing seeds Farm

Date: 4/18/18

I recommended the Planning Commission amend the San Juan County Vision Statement as follows:

1. **Adopt Staff Report OPTION C¹: Add a stand-alone Agriculture section to the Vision Statement.**
2. **ADD the following 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.*

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Thank you,

Greg Meyer

Public Comment on Vision Statement

To: SJC Planning Commission

From: Christina Dahl-Sesby Chesteri Dahl-Sesby

Date: 4/18/18

I recommended the Planning Commission amend the San Juan County Vision Statement as follows:

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- 2. ADD the following section**

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Thank you,

Chesteri Dahl-Sesby

Public Comment on Vision Statement

To: SJC Planning Commission

From: Gary Enerden

Date: 4. 17. 18

I recommended the Planning Commission amend the San Juan County Vision Statement as follows:

- 1. Adopt Staff Report OPTION C¹: Add a stand-alone Agriculture section to the Vision Statement.**
- 2. ADD the following section**

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¹ **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>

Thank you,

Gary Enerden

Public Comment on Vision Statement

To: SJC Planning Commission

From: Regan Ellison, THORNBUSH FARM

Date: 4-18-2018

I recommended the Planning Commission amend the San Juan County Vision Statement as follows:

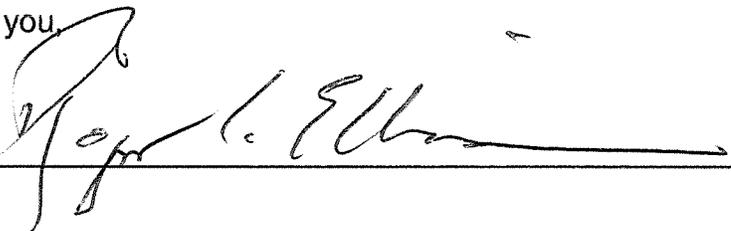
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2. **ADD the following section**

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<https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/14761>

Thank you,



Public Comment on Vision Statement

To: SJC Planning Commission

From: Megan Jones

Date: April 13th 2018

I recommended the Planning Commission amend the San Juan County Vision Statement as follows:

1. **Adopt Staff Report OPTION C¹: Add a stand-alone Agriculture section to the Vision Statement.**
2. **ADD the following 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.*

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Thank you,

Megan Jones

Public Comment on Vision Statement

To: SJC Planning Commission

From: CALVIN RYAN

Date: 4/18/18

I recommended the Planning Commission amend the San Juan County Vision Statement as follows:

1. **Adopt Staff Report OPTION C¹: Add a stand-alone Agriculture section to the Vision Statement.**
2. **ADD the following 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.*

¹ **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>

Thank you,

Calvin W. Ryan

Public Comment on Vision Statement

To: SJC Planning Commission

From:

Deirdre Morris

Date:

April 17 2018

I recommended the Planning Commission amend the San Juan County Vision Statement as follows:

1. **Adopt Staff Report OPTION C¹: Add a stand-alone Agriculture section to the Vision Statement.**
2. **ADD the following 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.*

¹ **OPTION C:** Recommendation can be found on page 3 of SJC Department of Community Development Staff Report dated March 29, 2018 found here:

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Thank you,

Deirdre Morris

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