

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