

Adam Zack

From: cwflizscranton@gmail.com on behalf of Liz Scranton <cwflizscranton@gmail.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.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Liz Scranton

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Liz Scranton

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