



SAN JUAN COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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**TRANSMITTAL MEMO**

**TO:** County Council  
Planning Commission

**CC:** Erika Shook, AICP, Director, DCD  
Mike Thomas, County Manager

**FROM:** Adam Zack, Planner II *[Signature]*  
Linda Kuller, Planning Manager, DCD *[Signature]*

**SUBJECT:** Joint Planning Commission and County Council Public Hearing  
2036 Comprehensive Plan Update: Vision amendments

**DATE:** May 1, 2018

**PUBLIC HEARING:** May 18, 2018

**ATTACHMENTS:** A. Vision Public Hearing Draft – Strikeout/Underline  
B. Vision Public Hearing Draft – Clean

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**Issue:** Public hearing on Planning Commission’s recommended Vision amendments.

**Requested Action:** Planning Commission to arrive at an official recommendation for amending the Comprehensive Plan Vision.

**Background:** 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 based on the thematic flow of the statements. Attachment A is the Planning Commission’s hearing draft with strikeout/underline format and Attachment B is the same draft without strikeout/underline. Prior public comments were included in two staff reports, dated March 29, 2018 and April 23, 2018.

**Public Comments:** The official comment period is Wednesday, May 2, 2018 through Friday, May 18, 2018, unless the County Council extends the comment period. Written comments about particular changes should refer to the page and line numbers on the amendments proposed in the staff report. Written comments submitted prior to 12:00 p.m. on May 17 will be copied for the County Council and Planning Commission members unless they wish to review comments on-line. You may comment:

- **Via Mail:** Prior to the hearing date, mail written comments to Adam Zack, Department of Community Development PO Box 947 Friday Harbor, WA 98250 or deliver them to the DCD office at 135 Rhone Street Friday Harbor during business hours.
- **Via Email:** Email comments to [compplancomments@sanjuanco.com](mailto:compplancomments@sanjuanco.com). Please title the Email subject line: Comp Plan Vision from (your last name or agency name). For the record, include your full address in all correspondence.
- **Via Oral Testimony:** The public is invited to provide comment on the proposed amendments at the joint public hearing.

If you submit comments to DCD after 12:00 p.m. on May 17, 2018, or if you distribute written comments at the hearing, please provide fifteen (15) copies of written comments.

**ATTACHMENT A: VISION PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT - STRIKEOUT/UNDERLINE  
MAY 18, 2018**

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  
5 a diverse people as a community bound together by these shared values, we declare our commitment to  
6 work 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,  
9 each with its own unique qualities. The islands are places of peace and mutual tolerance, where ~~citizens~~  
10 people of differing backgrounds and beliefs respect each other's dignity, privacy, and freedoms. We  
11 communicate effectively and openly and work together toward goals identified as being for the common  
12 good. We foster a sense of neighborliness, of self-sufficiency, and community pride that has long been a  
13 part of our island character.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ATTACHMENT A: VISION PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT - STRIKEOUT/UNDERLINE  
MAY 18, 2018

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

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

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

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

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

44  
45 **ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION** Our community nurtures the expression of its creative talents and  
46 supports diverse cultural and entertainment activities. Our cultural facilities such as libraries, museums,  
47 and theaters are focal points of activity and community support. Well-managed parks, trails, and shoreline  
48 access, where appropriate, provide islanders with recreation with due regard for both the rights of private  
49 property owners and the natural limitations of each site.

50  
51 **HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION** Our community is enriched by a strong sense of identity,  
52 tradition, legacy, and continuity, where past and present freely mingle. We recognize the contributions to  
53 our rural, agricultural, and maritime heritage made by indigenous peoples, explorers, and island pioneers,  
54 and encourage the preservation of that heritage. We encourage preservation of our heritage, historic  
55 sites, structures, and traditions for the enjoyment of all.

**ATTACHMENT A: VISION PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT - STRIKEOUT/UNDERLINE  
MAY 18, 2018**

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

DRAFT

**ATTACHMENT B: VISION PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT – CLEAN  
MAY 18, 2018**

1 **PREAMBLE: WE THE PEOPLE** of San Juan County value our healthy natural environment, vibrant and  
2 diverse community, self-sufficiency, interdependence, privacy and personal freedom. These rural islands  
3 are an extraordinary environmental treasure: as a community bound together by these shared values, we  
4 declare our commitment to work towards this vision of the San Juan Islands.  
5

6 **COMMUNITY** We envision a community that is primarily rural, made up of islands of varying character,  
7 each with its own unique qualities. The islands are places of peace and mutual tolerance, where people  
8 of differing backgrounds and beliefs respect each other's dignity, privacy, and freedoms. We  
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11 part of our island character.  
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24 needs.  
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27 are diverse housing types and we use innovative strategies to meet the various housing needs of our  
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MAY 18, 2018**

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