

RESOLUTION NO. 27 - 2018

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN AMENDED VISION FOR THE 2018 UPDATE OF
THE SAN JUAN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.**

WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act (GMA) was passed by the State Legislature in April 1990;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners voted to plan under the GMA in November, 1990;

WHEREAS, San Juan County is updating the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan, (the Plan) to extend the planning horizon through 2036;

WHEREAS, the County adopted the Plan's Vision in December 1998;

WHEREAS, nearly twenty years have passed since the Vision was adopted;

WHEREAS, an updated Vision is needed to inform the Plan update, including amendments to the Plan's goals and policies;

WHEREAS, in August 2017, the County hired consulting firms Community Attributes Inc. (CAI) and Studio Cascade Inc. (SCI) to conduct broad public outreach;

WHEREAS, SCI interviewed over twenty "orienteers" from the community in September 2017 to identify specific topics the Vision update should address;

WHEREAS, CAI, SCI and County staff conducted pop-up studios and used a mini-poll on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Islands in October 2017 to ask people about whether the existing Vision would serve the County through the new planning horizon of 2036;

WHEREAS, over 200 responses to a mini-poll were received that provided insight into needed Vision amendments;

WHEREAS, CAI, SCI and County staff conducted community workshops on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Islands in October 2017;

WHEREAS, workshop participants engaged in an exercise to identify specific areas of improvement for the 1998 Vision;

WHEREAS, in November 2017, SCI conducted an online questionnaire that received 560 responses to specific questions about the Vision;

WHEREAS, the data collected by consultants during the autumn of 2017 is summarized in the report, *San Juan County Vision 2036 Update Process*;

WHEREAS, at the January 19, 2018, Planning Commission meeting, public input summarized in this report was considered and Planning Commission directed staff to prepare draft amendments to the Vision;

WHEREAS, the preliminary staff draft amendments composed following the Planning Commission meeting January 19, 2018, were posted online in a staff report dated February 2, 2018 and the public was notified with newsflashes to project subscribers;

WHEREAS, although there was no quorum at the February 16, 2018, Planning Commission meeting, public testimony about the Vision amendments was taken;

WHEREAS, based on public comments received on February 16, 2018, staff updated the draft of the initial staff Vision amendments and attached them to a staff report dated March 1, 2018, that was posted on the project website and the public was notified of the draft in a newsflash to project subscribers;

WHEREAS, at the March 16, 2018, Planning Commission meeting, public testimony and written comments on the March 1st draft were considered, and the Planning Commission proposed further amendments to the Vision;

WHEREAS, at the March 16, 2018, Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission agreed by consensus to further amendments of the preamble, community, basic human needs, education, economy, natural environment, land use, transportation, energy and resources, and governance statements of the Vision;

WHEREAS, at the March 16, 2018, Planning Commission meeting, the Commission agreed by consensus to add statements on housing and climate change to the Vision;

WHEREAS, proposed amendments from the March 16, 2018, Planning Commission meeting were posted to the project website in a staff report dated March 29, 2018 and the public was notified of the availability of the draft in a newsflash to project subscribers;

WHEREAS, the staff report dated March 29, 2018, included all public comments received to date and was transmitted to County Council and Planning Commission;

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2018, staff briefed County Council on the Planning Commission's progress on the Vision;

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2018, the Planning Commission considered written public comments on the March 29, 2018 draft amendments, voted to add a new agriculture statement, and approved a draft of Vision amendments that was recommended to County Council for consideration during a public hearing;

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2018, staff briefed County Council on the Planning Commission's work to date and the Council set a joint Council and Planning Commission public hearing on May 18, 2018;

WHEREAS, the May 18, 2018, joint public hearing was duly advertised in *The Journal of the San Juan Islands* and the *Islands Sounder* on May 2, 2018 and additional newsflashes were used to announce the availability of the public hearing draft and request comment from project subscribers;

WHEREAS, the County Council and Planning Commission held a joint public hearing, receiving written comments and public testimony on May 18, 2018;

WHEREAS, the joint public hearing was closed by the County Council, reserving the right to re-open later;

WHEREAS, following the joint public hearing, the Planning Commission's regularly scheduled May 18, 2018 meeting commenced and they deliberated on the draft amendments to the Vision;

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2018, Planning Commission considered public comments and testimony and agreed by consensus to amend the preamble, governance, basic human needs, housing, education, natural environment, energy and resources, climate change, economy, and transportation statements of the Vision;

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2018, Planning Commission recommended to County Council their final proposal to amend the Vision;

WHEREAS, the County Council deliberated on the Planning Commission's recommended amendments on June 11, 2018, made clarifications and revisions to highlight its aspirational intent and deleted portions that were determined to be too specific for the Vision but should be considered during the update of the Plan's goals and policies; and

WHEREAS, County Council adopted a revised order of the Vision statements as shown in Attachment A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of San Juan County, state of Washington, as follows:

1. That the Vision found at San Juan County Comprehensive Plan, Section A, page 2, be amended as shown in Attachment A for the Plan update.
2. That staff provide follow-through on the following topics removed from the Planning Commission's recommended amendments to help guide the development of goals and policies during the Plan's update:
 - a. Quantifying the drinking water supply;
 - b. Addressing the needs of mental health, elder, and child-care;

ATTACHMENT A: COUNTY COUNCIL VISION AMENDMENTS
June 11, 2018

1 PREAMBLE

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

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

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 people ~~citizens~~. Our elected officials and
18 government institutions lead, communicate and collaborate with regional partners in areas of mutual
19 interest. Our government institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate
20 services where practical, manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a
21 timely manner.

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

27 **HOUSING** Adequate, safe, affordable and stable housing helps our community thrive. There are diverse
28 housing types and we use innovative strategies to meet the various housing needs of our community.

29 **EDUCATION** Learning is a continuing lifelong process ~~which~~ that is encouraged and aided by the
30 community. A partnership of families and community creates a supportive and challenging educational
31 environment founded on academic excellence and artistic expression. This ~~educational~~ environment
32 produces ethical, self-directed, compassionate, responsible world citizens, alive with the love of learning.

33 **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT** Our islands and marine waters have exceptional natural beauty and healthy,
34 diverse ecosystems that are surrounded by pollution-free marine waters. The air is fresh and clean, the
35 water quality is excellent, and the soil is uncontaminated. As careful stewards of these islands and waters,
36 we conserve resources, preserve open space, and take appropriate action to assure healthy land and
37 marine environments. We recognize the integral role that forests play in the stewardship of our air, soils
38 and water resources. The natural environment is central to the ecological health, quality of life, and the
39 economy in the islands. Native plants, ~~and~~ animals, ~~and~~ marine life of the islands thrive, and are identified,
40 appreciated and conserved.

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1 **ENERGY AND RESOURCES** Our community is strives for energy independence and zero waste fosters
 2 resource and energy conservation. Energy independence is encouraged. We use renewable energy,
 3 materials, and natural resources on a sustainable basis. Recycling, sSolid waste, and sewage treatment
 4 are managed within the confines of each island in an environmentally sound manner. Renewable natural
 5 resources are used on a sustainable basis. Nonrenewable resources are conserved wherever possible and
 6 practical.

7 **CLIMATE CHANGE** Our community sets an example with its response to climate change. We prepare to
 8 address the negative effects in advance before they become crises. Our community encourages
 9 voluntary efforts and enacts incentives and regulations if necessary to reduce our carbon footprint.

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

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

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

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

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June 11, 2018

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

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

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