



SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

135 Rhone Street, PO Box 947, Friday Harbor, WA 98250
(360) 378-2354 (360) 378-2116 Fax (360) 378-3922
dcd@sanjuanco.com www.sanjuanco.com

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Proposal: A nonproject proposal addressing draft amendment to San Juan County Code (SJCC) 18.40.400 Exempt Signs, subsection C related to political signs. The proposal will remove conditions from the sign code exemption for political signs, amending SJCC 18.40.400(C) as follows:

The following signs are exempt from the regulations contained in SJCC 18.40.370 through 18.40.400-18.40.390

C. Political signs shall be permitted outright; provided, that they shall not be erected more than 45 days prior to an election and shall be removed by the candidate or landowner no more than 72 hours following an election terminating candidacy. Political signs shall not exceed six square feet in area.

The purpose of removing the conditions from the political sign code exemption is to bring San Juan County Development Code into accord with the County's policy not to enforce the conditions of SJCC 18.40.400(C). San Juan County Superior Court issued an order on May 21, 2018 regarding Case Number 18-2-0507528. The Court held that the conditions of the political sign exemption in SJCC 18.40.400(C) are likely contrary to law and entered an order preventing the County from enforcing them. The County Council temporarily addressed this problem with Ordinance 14-2018 An Ordinance Adopting Interim Official Controls Regarding Political Signs, effective June 12 through December 12, 2018. The proposed changes to the County Code will permanently address this problem by replacing ordinance 14-2018.

Applicant: San Juan County Department of Community Development

San Juan County, the lead agency for this proposal, has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required. Under WAC 197-11-340(2), a Determination of Nonsignificance was issued on July 3, 2018. The determination was made after a review of a completed environmental checklist.

Copies of the proposed changes to the San Juan County Code, SEPA checklist, SEPA Determination & associated documents are available on the County website at <https://www.sanjuanco.com/1460/Political-Sign-Code-Amendment>. They may be viewed during business hours at the Department of Community Development, 135 Rhone Street, in Friday Harbor. For more information, please contact Adam Zack at the DCD office or (360) 370-7580.

Comments on this determination must be submitted by July 19, 2018, to Adam Zack, Planner II, San Juan County DCD, PO Box 947, Friday Harbor, WA, 98250 or adamz@sanjuanco.com. Email subject line: Comments on SEPA Sign Code Amendment. For more information, please contact Adam Zack at the DCD office or (360) 370-7580.

Following a final decision this determination may be appealed with the underlying action to Superior Court or State Boards as provided in RCW 36.70A, RCW 90.58, and RCW 36.70C. For appeals to Superior Court the appeal period is 21 days and for appeals to the Growth Management Hearing's Board the appeal period is 60 days.

Responsible Official: Erika Shook, AICP, Director
Department of Community Development
(360) 378-2354

Date: July 3, 2018