



SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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MEMO

REPORT DATE: May 19, 2020
TO: San Juan County Council
CC: San Juan County Planning Commission
FROM: Sophia Cassam, Planner I *SC*
Linda Kuller, AICP, Planning Manager *LK*
SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan, Draft Section A, Introduction and Vision
BRIEFINGS: County Council and Planning Commission: TBD
ATTACHMENTS: A. Draft Section A, Introduction and Vision
B. Existing 2010 Section A, Introduction
C. Resolution 27-2018 RE: 2036 Comprehensive Plan Vision.

Purpose: Transmittal of the preliminary draft of Section A of the Comprehensive Plan (*Plan*), Introduction and Vision, for County Council and Planning Commission review.

Action Requested: Suggested revisions and additions will be requested at the briefings.

Public Comment: Public comments are requested on the draft Section A, Introduction and Vision by 4:30 pm on June 15, 2020. Please submit your comments to compplancomments@sanjuanco.com with the subject line: Section A, Introduction and Vision. Please provide your contact information for the record and identify the line number pertaining to the comment. If possible, provide specific alternative or additional language. Comments may also be submitted to the SJC Department of Community Development at PO Box 947, 935 Rhone Street, Friday Harbor, WA 98250, attn. Sophia Cassam.

Highlights and changes to Section A: Staff proposes to repeal and replace the existing 2010 Section A, Introduction (Attachment B). The 2009 Introduction is dense, out of date, and does little to introduce readers/users to the *Plan* and to San Juan County. In a clear, engaging, and easy-to-read manner, the introduction to the *Plan* should present the community's Vision; explain the *Plan's* purpose, development, contents, and implementation; and orient the user to the unique context of San Juan County. The new draft Section A has undergone a complete update from the 2009 document. Staff:

- Deleted
 - Out of date information about the planning process, including various practices, committees, dates and statistics;
 - The table of milestones in the development of the *Plan*;
 - The summary of land use assumptions; and
 - The Growth Management Act Planning Goals and added them as an attachment.

- Updated the
 - Overall organization to match the rest of the *Plan*;
 - Vision (Attachment C);
 - Data including population characteristics and projections
 - Overview of *Plan* organization with a simple list and explanation of *Plan* sections; and
 - “Summary of Existing Conditions” with a “County Profile” section that provides readers with an overview of the population and physical setting.

- Added
 - Photographs and other visuals to familiarize readers with the context of San Juan County as a whole;
 - A summary of key challenges the County faces, which are incorporated throughout the *Plan*; and
 - Information about climate change and climate resilience.

Background: The Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.470(2)) requires that comprehensive plans include a Vision, stating the community’s values and its goals for the future. WAC 365-196-400(2)(e) states:

(e) The comprehensive plan should include a vision for the community at the end of the twenty-year planning period and identify community values derived from the visioning and other citizen participation processes. Goals may be further defined with policies and objectives in each element of the comprehensive plan.

The updated Vision (Attachment C) included in this draft was adopted by County Council in Resolution 27-2018 after multiple rounds of public involvement.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

SECTION A

INTRODUCTION AND VISION

May 19, 2020

1st Draft

SUPERSEDES APRIL 27, 2010

DRAFT

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SECTION A: INTRODUCTION AND VISION

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 4

VISION 5

FRAMEWORK..... 10

 Public Involvement 10

WHAT IS THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?..... 11

Plan Contents 11

 Implementation 11

COUNTY PROFILE 12

 Population..... 13

 Place 14

 Key Challenges 15

ATTACHMENTS 16

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Photo: Kevin Holmes

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2
3
4

INTRODUCTION

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San Juan County is an archipelago in northwest Washington State, a cluster of islands in the Salish Sea. The County is home to approximately 17,000 permanent residents. There are seasonal residents and workers, as well as a significant number of visitors. The islands are accessed by Washington State Ferries, private boats, and by air. Ferries serve the four most populated islands: San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw. Friday Harbor is the one incorporated town in the County, and there are other population centers in the County's two urban growth areas (Eastsound and Lopez Village), rural hamlets, activity centers and master planned resorts.

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Residents and visitors alike are most attracted to the islands' rural scenery, the relaxed pace of life, the recreation opportunities at beaches and forests, marine wildlife viewing, and the sense of community generated by the friendliness of locals, according to the 2019 San Juan Islands Visitors Study.

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Life in San Juan County today builds upon a rich natural and cultural history. The archipelago stands in the Salish Sea, which was shaped by the forces of the last ice ages. The Salish Sea and the Islands are home to a wonderfully diverse assortment of marine and terrestrial plants and animals. For thousands of years, the Coast Salish peoples inhabited the area. European exploration of the islands began in the 1600s, with settlement in the 1800s, which made way for the County's agriculture, maritime, and resource extraction industry heritage. Since the San Juan Islands became a popular destination in the 1960s, the year round and visitor population has boomed. Today, San Juan County faces the challenges of managing human environmental impacts, meeting basic human needs such as housing for low to middle income households, and mitigating and becoming more resilient to climate change.

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The Comprehensive Plan (*Plan*) is San Juan County's principal planning document. It guides future growth. It has been prepared to comply with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). Implementation of the *Plan* prepares the County to manage future growth. It helps the County meet people's needs and maintain the high quality of life found in the Islands. The goals and policies in the *Plan* are the framework within which the County creates and implements development regulations, programs, and other plans. The 2036 Vision, developed by the community, is the *Plan's* North Star, guiding the *Plan* elements and leading the County toward the future we strive for every day.

1 **2036 VISION**

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3 The San Juan County Vision portrays the near future as the community aspires for it to be. The Vision is
4 a statement of values that guide the goals and policies of each *Plan* element. In designing the Vision
5 collectively through extensive workshopping and deliberation, the community identified the nature of
6 essential aspects of life in the San Juan Islands.

7
8 The world is not the same today as it was in 1999 when the San Juan Islands community and the County
9 created the previous, first Vision statement. The original Vision remains largely true to The San Juan
10 Islands’ spirit and character, thanks to the hard work and countless hours the community invested in
11 creating the document. However, when reflecting on this original Vision in 2017, the community realized
12 that life has adjusted course as new factors have entered into the conversation. We know more about
13 the effects of human action on climate change. We are more aware of our limited resources. We
14 recognize that there are underrepresented voices in the community that need to be amplified. Technology
15 ever increases the speed of and capacity for communication. Participants noticed where the Vision
16 excluded some members of the community, and took steps to adjust the language to better represent the
17 true make-up of the Islands.

18
19 The County and community revised the Vision over a 10-month process between August 2017 and May
20 2018, nearly 20 years since the last revision. The outcome of this process is a 2036 Vision based on the
21 original statement that reflects the community’s goals, desires, and needs.
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2036 VISION

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PREAMBLE

WE THE PEOPLE, citizens of San Juan County, value our healthy natural environment, vibrant and diverse community, self-sufficiency, interdependence, privacy, personal freedom, independence, and stewardship of our common resources. These rural islands are an extraordinary treasure: as a community bound together by these shared values, we declare our commitment to work towards this vision of the San Juan Islands.

COMMUNITY

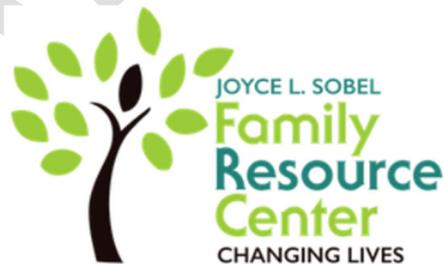
We envision a community that is primarily rural, made up of islands of varying character, each with its own unique qualities. The islands are places of peace and mutual tolerance, where people of differing backgrounds and beliefs respect each other's dignity, privacy, and freedoms. We communicate effectively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



Photo: San Juan Island National Historic Park

BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Our islands are places where people are safe, day and night. The drinking water supply is clean, adequate, and conserved as a vital resource. Health care and help in time of need are accessible and affordable. Making a life here is not limited by lack of access to basic human needs.



GOVERNANCE

We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are represented by elected officials who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open manner that recognizes the independent, self-reliant nature of its people. Our elected officials and government institutions lead, communicate and collaborate with regional partners in areas of mutual interest. Our government institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate services where practical, manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a timely manner.



HOUSING

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



Photo: James Finn

EDUCATION

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



Photo: Slater Moore

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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



Photo: Jim Maya

ENERGY AND RESOURCES

Our community strives for energy independence and zero waste. We use renewable energy, materials, and natural resources on a sustainable basis. Solid waste and sewage treatment are managed in an environmentally sound manner.



Photo: The Exchange

CLIMATE CHANGE

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



Image: San Juan County

ECONOMY

We support a diverse, resilient, and sustainable economy while respecting the natural world. This economy serves the needs of our community, and recognizes the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural, marine and isolated nature of the islands. Our economy comprises a wide spectrum of stable, year-round activities that provide wages that allow islanders to live, work, and thrive locally. We encourage new ideas and new technology for improving the quality and profitability of our goods and services. Communication systems support our economy.



Image: San Juan County Economic Development Council

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 recognize the integral role that agriculture plays in the stewardship of our soils and water resources. Diverse agricultural activities are essential to the health and well-being of our community, contributing to the social, economic and environmental fabric of our islands.



Photo: Barbara Marrett

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

We have water, land, and air transportation systems commensurate with our island culture. Transportation plans carefully consider multimodal transportation and rural character. Expansion or construction of transportation systems, infrastructure, and facilities occurs only based on demonstrated local public need. Advanced communication infrastructure is encouraged.



ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION

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



HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Our community is enriched by a strong sense of identity, tradition, legacy, and continuity, where past and present freely mingle. We recognize the contributions to our rural and maritime heritage made by indigenous peoples, explorers, and island pioneers. We encourage preservation of our heritage, historic sites, structures, and traditions for the enjoyment of all.



Photo: National Park Service

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OUR COMMITMENT: AS FORTUNATE CITIZENS OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS, WE COMMIT ourselves individually and communally to a future for ourselves and our children that reflects this vision.

1 WHAT IS THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN? 2

3 The *Plan* aims to accomplish the 14 planning goals (Attachment 1) set by the Washington State Growth
4 Management Act (GMA). Local goals, policies and land use maps based on the community’s vision for the
5 future and on assessments of current and predicted conditions are oriented toward the GMA planning
6 goals. In addition to goals and policies, the *Plan* contains other documents such as technical appendices,
7 Official Maps, subarea plans, and the plans of jurisdictions and organizations whose work coincides with
8 the County’s. New regulations, programs, and other plans should align with the *Plan*.
9

10 *Plan Contents* 11

12 The *Plan* is organized into three sections, plus appendices and subarea plans.
13

- 14 ▪ **Section A:** Introduction to the *Plan*, orients readers, provides the community’s Vision.
15
- 16 ▪ **Section B:** *Plan* elements, each of which contain an introduction and overview of each topic, and
17 goals and policies. The *Plan* Elements are Governance, Land Use, Shoreline Master Program,
18 Water Resources, Housing, Transportation, Capital Facilities, Utilities, Historic and Archaeological
19 Preservation, and Economic Development.
20
- 21 ▪ **Section C:** Administration
22
- 23 ▪ **Appendices:** Technical information supplemental to the *Plan* elements. This information includes
24 budgets, relevant data, inventories, and analyses that inform the corresponding goals and policies
25 in Section B.
26
- 27 ▪ **Subarea Plans** to guide development in the unincorporated Urban Growth Areas and in certain
28 communities that require planning tailored to their specific contexts.
29

30 *Implementation* 31

32 The *Plan* is implemented by various parties throughout the County. It is used by the Department of
33 Community Development to guide land use decisions and amend the development code. The Capital
34 Facilities Plan includes many budgets used countywide for allocating funding for County facilities and
35 services. Public Works uses the Transportation Element to plan for the development and maintenance of
36 transportation infrastructure. The Housing Element informs and guides housing programs run by the
37 County and in partnership with local organizations.

1 **COUNTY PROFILE**

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By identifying the County population and the location-based characteristics of the Islands, San Juan County creates and implements the *Plan* with appropriate context. San Juan County intends for the *Plan* to foster and maintain people’s wellbeing, and sense of community and place in the Islands.



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1 Population

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In 2016, San Juan County was home to 16,314 residents. The four most populated islands are San Juan, Orcas, Lopez and Shaw. The islands are said to each have their own unique ‘feel’ shaped by the communities and the landscapes. According to the 2019 San Juan Islands Visitors Study, both residents and visitors are attracted to the friendliness of the locals.

Table 1. Number of permanent residents in San Juan County by island, 2016 and predicted in 2036.

| Island | 2016 | 2036 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| San Juan (incl. Town of Friday Harbor) | 7,810 | 9,298 |
| Orcas | 5,395 | 6,432 |
| Lopez | 2,466 | 2,936 |
| Shaw | 241 | 287 |
| Other Islands | 402 | 470 |
| Total | 16,314 | 19,423 |

9 Source: San Juan County *Plan* Appendix 6, Housing Needs Assessment.

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San Juan County is a popular place to retire, and the population is skewed older than the rest of the state. Whereas the state median age is 37 years, the median age in San Juan County is 55 years. The median age in the County has been increasing over time, meaning that the population is aging. An aging population has economic implications, such as workforce availability, and affects the needs for schools, housing and various services.

Every year, San Juan County receives a significant number of visitors, including tourists, service providers, second homeowners, and seasonal workers, artists and scientific researchers. The majority of visitors come during the warmer months of May through September. On a single day in the peak season, there can be up to nearly 25,000 (24,810 in 2017) people in the County. By 2036, the County could have nearly 30,000 people on a peak day. When San Juan County plans to accommodate growth, it not only plans for an increase in residents, but also anticipates more visitors.

San Juan County’s population is 93.9 percent white. It has smaller percentages of all other racial and ethnic categories, when compared to the state.

Table 2. Race and Hispanic Origin in San Juan County and Washington State, 2018 Estimates

| Race/Ethnicity | San Juan County % of Population | Washington State % of Population |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| White | 93.9 | 78.9 |
| Black or African American | 0.8 | 4.3 |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 1 | 1.9 |
| Asian | 1.5 | 9.3 |
| Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander | 0.2 | 0.8 |
| 2 or more races | 2.6 | 4.8 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 6.7 | 12.9 |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino | 88.1 | 68 |

28 Source: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/sanjuancountywashington> and <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/WA>

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1 Place

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3 At 173.91 square miles, San Juan County is the smallest in Washington by landmass, though it has the
4 greatest amount of shoreline. It is only accessible by ferry, private boat and aircraft. The County has ports
5 of entry between the United States and Canada on San Juan Island. One can travel to Canada via the
6 Sidney, B.C. ferry and the Friday Harbor airport.

7

8 San Juan County is known for its scenic landscapes. Among them: rocky beaches, dense forests, sweeping
9 prairie, arable farmland, and delightful villages and hamlets.

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Spencer Spit State Park
Photo: Barbara Marrett



Moran State Park
Photo: Mark Gardner



San Juan Island Farm
Photo: Barbara Marrett



Eastsound Urban Growth Area
Photo: San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau

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12 Climate in San Juan County is astoundingly varied. The surrounding landmasses and bodies of water affect
13 the weather and lead to microclimates throughout the San Juan Islands. Some places receive many inches
14 of rain annually, and feature dense, lush forest with fungi, mosses, ferns and big trees. Other areas are
15 quite dry, and scrubby, rocky, small trees and even cacti! The Islands are teeming with marine and
16 terrestrial life, with a variety of mammals, fish, birds, arthropods, plants, fungi, and algae.

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1 Key Challenges

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3 This *Plan* addresses all GMA requirements. Public participation indicated that the County will face the
4 following key challenges during the planning period.
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6 **Housing:** Stable housing people can afford is a foundational aspect of a strong community. In San Juan
7 County, there is a low stock of housing units for purchase or long term rental, and many people struggle
8 to find available housing that suits their needs. Housing affordability is another issue, particularly for
9 those who rely on wage incomes. The median earned income in San Juan County is significantly *lower*
10 than the state average; however, the median home price in the County is significantly *higher* than the
11 state average. The cost of living is high in the San Juan Islands. San Juan County needs a variety of housing
12 types that suit the needs of households of various income levels and life stages.
13

14 **Economic Diversification:** Rapid, unexpected changes such as a natural disaster, pandemic, or recession
15 shake the foundation of the County's economy; as do long-term changes, such as industry shifts and
16 climate change. Currently, the County economy rests heavily on tourism, and sources labor and skills from
17 outside the County. San Juan County will be more resilient to natural and economic disruptions with a
18 broad and diverse economy that utilizes the local workforce and attracts a variety of business types.
19

20 **Tourism Management:** Communities around the world are learning to manage tourism in order to
21 promote balanced economies, high quality of life for residents, and protection of the natural environment
22 from degradation. Tourism management strategies are needed to protect the quality of life and natural
23 resources on the Islands. This *Plan* considers the San Juan Islands' seasonal population in most elements;
24 however, other documents, such as the 2019 San Juan Islands Visitor Study, engage with the topic of
25 tourism in more depth. A Tourism Master Plan is being developed. San Juan County also partners with
26 other organizations to better understand and manage the effects of tourism, and to provide outreach and
27 education to visitors about stewarding the natural environment. It is the only County that has officially
28 adopted the Leave No Trace principles. Visitors are actively educated in stewardship principles.
29

30 **Rural Character:** Growth and rural character can seem like contradictory concepts. Rural character is
31 defined, in part, as a place in which open space, the natural landscape, and vegetation predominate over
32 the built environment. Growth, on the other hand, is linked to development as members of the County
33 population will need places to live, work, go to school, recreate, and carry out other life activities. With
34 mindful planning, the County can face the challenge of preserving natural beauty, open space, natural
35 resources, wildlife habitat and quality of living while accommodating the necessary development that
36 comes with population growth. The majority of new development will occur strategically in the urban
37 growth areas on San Juan, Orcas and Lopez. Additionally, if the County seeks to become less dependent
38 on the mainland for Energy generation and instead produce much of its own energy using green,
39 renewable sources, the County and community will need to decide how energy generation infrastructure
40 can be compatible with rural character.
41

42 **Climate Resiliency:** The impacts of rapidly changing global climate regimes, from a local to global scale,
43 demand serious attention. They create concerns for human well-being, sustainability and economic
44 prosperity everywhere. We are at an inflection point in history and our community faces critical choices
45 as we collectively strive for greater resilience and self-reliance given the cascading changes we will
46 experience. In the decades ahead the social, economic and environmental reverberations amplified by
47 climate change will not only impose challenges, but also expand opportunities, as yet unanticipated for
48 our County. Prioritizing a diversified economy, systems resiliency and goals that remediate, sequester and
49 reduce carbon emissions are incorporated into the elements of this updated plan.

1 **ATTACHMENTS**

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3 Comprehensive Plans are guided by the goals set forth by Washington State’s Growth Management Act.

4 The following table lists the GMA planning goals in RCW 36.70A.020.

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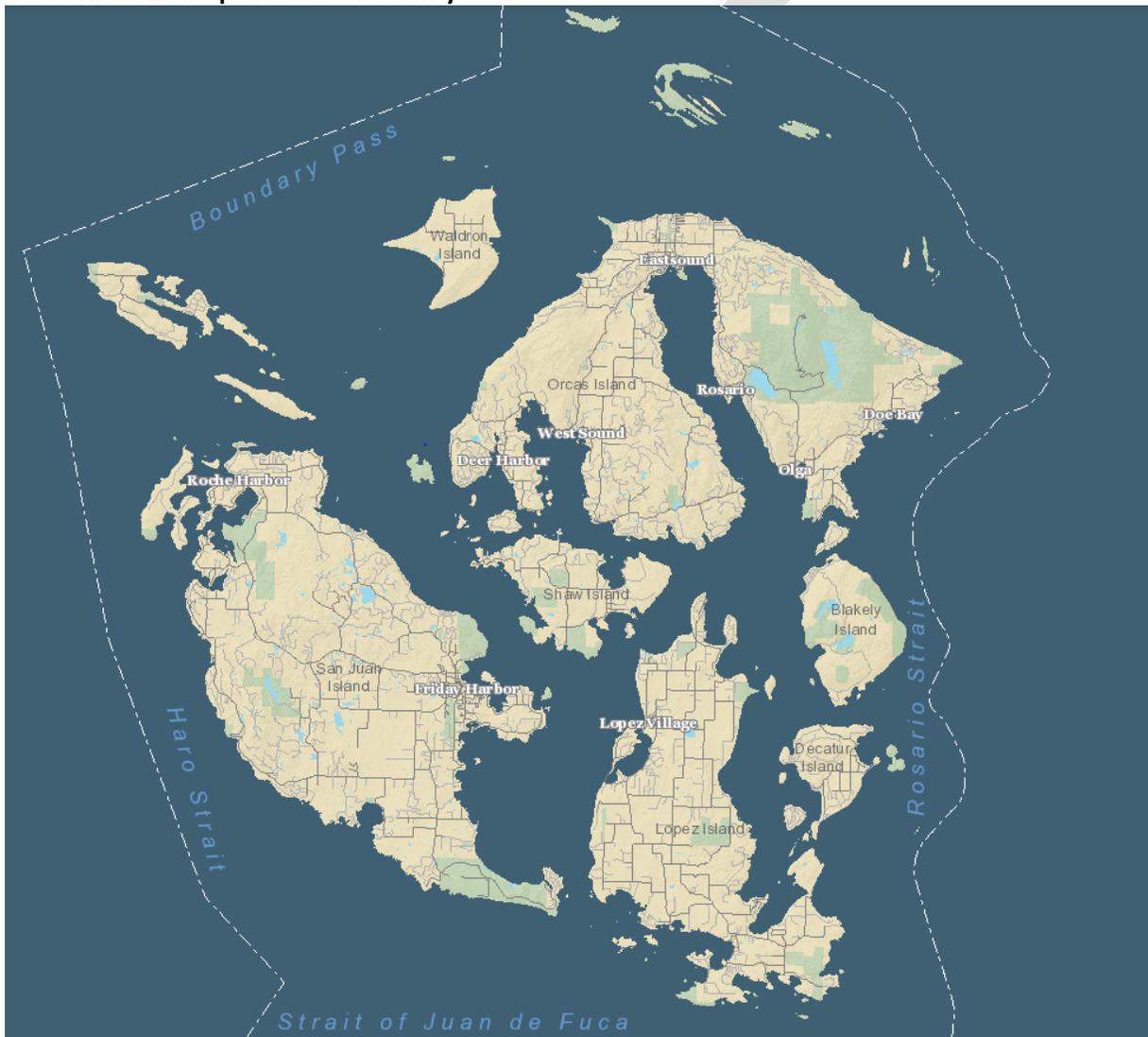
6 **Attachment 1. GMA Planning Goals**

| GMA PLANNING GOAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--|--|
| Urban Growth | Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner. |
| Reduce Sprawl | Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development. |
| Transportation | Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans. |
| Housing | Encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock. |
| Economic Development | Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of new businesses, recognize regional differences impacting economic development opportunities, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities. |
| Property Rights | Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions. |
| Permits | Applications for both state and local government permits should be processed in a timely and fair manner to ensure predictability. |
| Natural Resource Industries | Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forestlands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses. |
| Open Space and Recreation | Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities. |
| Environment | Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water. |
| Citizen Participation and Coordination | Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts. |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Public Facilities and Services | Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards. |
| Historic Preservation | Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance. |
| Protect Shorelines | Minimize, insofar as practical, any resultant damage to the ecology and environment of the shoreline area and any interference with the public's use of the water. |

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Attachment 2. Map of San Juan County



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San Juan County Comprehensive Plan

**first adopted
December 20, 1998**

Incorporating revisions through Ordinance 18-2010 (April 27, 2010)

WE THE PEOPLE of San Juan County recognize that these rural islands are an extraordinary treasure of natural beauty and abundance, and that independence, privacy and personal freedom are values prized by islanders. Being a diverse people bound together by these shared values, we declare our commitment to work towards this vision of the San Juan Islands in 2020 A.D.

SAN JUAN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. INTRODUCTION

B. PLAN ELEMENTS

- 1. Governance**
- 2. Land Use**
- 3. Shoreline Master Program**
- 4. Water Resources**
- 5. Housing**
- 6. Transportation**
- 7. Capital Facilities**
- 8. Utilities**
- 9. Historic and Archaeological Preservation**

C. DEFINITIONS

D. ADMINISTRATION

E. APPENDICES

- 1. Population Projections, Buildout Analysis, and Land Use Inventory**
- 2. Countywide Planning Policies**
- 3. Friday Harbor UGA Management Agreement**
- 4. Water Resources Assessment**
- 5. Housing Needs Assessment**
- 6. Transportation Facilities Inventory, LOS Analysis, and Financial Plan**
- 7. Capital Facilities Inventory, Needs Analysis, and Financial Plan**
- 8. Utilities Inventory**
- 9. Final Economic and Environmental Impact Statement (10-96) and Final Supplemental EIS (11-97)**
- 10. Eastsound Storm Drainage Facilities Ordinance 33-2008 (July 29, 2008)**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

SECTION A

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Purpose | 1 |
| 2. Vision for the Future | 1 |
| 3. Growth Management Act Planning Goals | 1 |
| 4. Planning Process | 3 |
| 5. Organization of this Plan | 6 |
| 6. Summary of Land Use Assumptions and Existing Conditions | 6 |
| 6.1 Land Use Assumptions | 6 |
| 6.2 Summary of Existing Conditions | 7 |

LIST OF TABLES

| | |
|---|---|
| Table 1. Vision Statement..... | 2 |
| Table 2. Growth Management Act Planning Goals..... | 3 |
| Table 3. Milestones in the Development of the Comprehensive Plan..... | 4 |
| Table 4. San Juan County Population, 1870-1996..... | 7 |
| Table 5. Projected County Population to 2015..... | 8 |

1. PURPOSE

The San Juan County *Comprehensive Plan* was produced by and for its citizens. San Juan County citizens are looking far into the future and trying to determine what the County will look and feel like if certain decisions are made now. This *Plan* integrates their ideas, concerns and expressions of preference into statements of how the County should be developed, what development regulations should accomplish, what facilities and service levels are needed, and how publicly funded improvements should support these objectives. Although this *Plan* looks only 20 years into the future, the visions and values expressed in this *Plan* extend beyond the 20 year planning horizon to future generations. The *Plan* is intended to be reviewed regularly to consider possible changes in conditions or the vision of the County's citizens.

This *Plan*, together with its supporting documents and the ordinance by which it is adopted, is the official policy statement of the County. The *Plan* is not a detailed, final plan. Rather, it provides a long range framework to guide citizens, County government, and private agencies and service providers in their planning, design and location decisions about growth, land uses, conservation of natural resources, and major capital facility expenditures. The goals and policies in this *Plan* direct future decisions on land use actions, ordinance amendments, capital expenditures, procedures and programs. This *Plan* replaces the County's first *Comprehensive Plan* which was adopted in 1979.

2. VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Visions allow people to dream and look into the future; they give us a chance to imagine what our community can become at its best.

Vision planning asks people from all walks of life to think about the future and what they would like it to become, and then figure out ways to make it happen.

In the simplest terms, a vision is a consensus image of what a community seeks to become. Adopted as a formal policy statement, a vision serves as both a blueprint for future direction and a yardstick against which to measure current decisions and actions.

Three Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs) representing a broad range of interests among the island communities were appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to guide the County in revising its 1979 *Comprehensive Plan*. The first task of the CACs was to create a vision for the future. The three district groups met on Orcas, San Juan and Lopez for five months to develop district vision statements. The district vision statements were displayed at the 1993 County Fair with a questionnaire for public comment. The three statements along with over 100 written comments from the public were then submitted to a Steering Committee made up of members from the district CACs. The Steering Committee reviewed and compared the three vision statements and public comments and, over a two month period, created a county-wide vision statement. The County-wide Vision Statement was formally endorsed by the Board of County Commissioners in December 1993. The Vision Statement (Table 1) is the foundation upon which the entire *Comprehensive Plan* is based.

3. GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT PLANNING GOALS

In 1990 the legislature enacted the Growth Management Act (GMA) to guide Washington State as it grows into the future. It required that cities and counties develop comprehensive plans to accomplish both state and local objectives. This *Plan* was developed to comply with the GMA as well as to update the 1979 *Comprehensive Land Use Plan* and Regulations. The GMA established 13 goals to address issues important to the development of a comprehensive plan. Each goal was considered during the formulation of the elements of the San Juan County *Comprehensive Plan*. The GMA goals are in Table 2, below.

A DECLARATION OF VISION AND COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF SAN JUAN COUNTY

PREAMBLE

WE THE PEOPLE of San Juan County recognize that these rural islands are an extraordinary treasure of natural beauty and abundance, and that independence, privacy and personal freedom are values prized by islanders. Being a diverse people bound together by these shared values, we declare our commitment to work towards this vision of the San Juan Islands in 2020 A.D.

COMMUNITY

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

BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Our islands are places where all citizens can safely walk or play, day or night. The drinking water supply is clean and adequate. Health care and help in time of need are accessible and affordable. The supply of affordable housing is adequate to meet the needs of our diverse population.

EDUCATION

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

ECONOMY

We support a pattern of economic growth and development which serves the needs of our community, and which recognizes the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural, marine and isolated nature of the islands. Our economy comprises a wide spectrum of stable, year-round activities that provide employment for islanders. We support and encourage traditional industries including forestry, farming, aquaculture, construction, fishing and tourism without jeopardizing the resources on which they depend. We have home occupations and cottage industries which are compatible with surrounding neighborhoods. We encourage new ideas and new technology for improving the quality and profitability of our goods and services. Value-added activities are encouraged. Environmental conservation and sustainable development are balanced.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Our islands have exceptional natural beauty and healthy diverse ecosystems surrounded by pollution-free marine waters. The air is fresh and clean, the water quality is excellent, and the soil is uncontaminated. As careful stewards of these islands, we conserve resources, preserve open space, and take appropriate action to assure healthy land and marine environments. Native plants and animals of the islands thrive, and are identified, appreciated and conserved.

LAND USE

Neighborhoods, hamlets, villages and towns are clearly defined so as to conserve agricultural, forest, mineral resource and environmentally sensitive lands. These areas provide for commerce and community activities without losing their small scale and attractive island ambiance. There is housing for people of all incomes. The unique character of our shorelines is protected by encouraging uses which maintain or enhance the quality of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use strategies, our citizens and institutions balance and protect private property rights, public rights, and our natural environment.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

We have water, land, and air transportation systems commensurate with our island culture. On-island circulation is by means of a system of scenic rural roads with automobile, bicycle and pedestrian ways functioning without conflict. In some places, the roads are unpaved, narrow, and winding, and care is taken to maintain a rustic quality in public signs. Expansion or new construction of basic public transportation facilities occurs only on the basis of demonstrated local public need. Advanced interactive communication systems are encouraged.

ENERGY AND RESOURCES

Our community fosters resource and energy conservation. Energy independence is encouraged. Recycling, solid waste, and sewage treatment are managed within the confines of each island in an environmentally sound manner. Renewable natural resources are used on a sustainable basis. Nonrenewable resources are conserved wherever possible and practical.

ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION

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

HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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

GOVERNANCE

We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are equally represented by elected officials who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open manner which recognizes the independent, self-reliant nature of its citizens. Our government institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate services where practical, manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a timely manner.

OUR COMMITMENT:

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

Table 2. Growth Management Act Planning Goals.

| Goal | Description |
|---|---|
| Urban Growth | Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner. |
| Reduce Sprawl | Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low density development. |
| Transportation | Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans. |
| Housing | Encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock. |
| Economic Development | Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunities for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities. |
| Property Rights | Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions. |
| Permits | Applications for both state and local government permits should be processed in a timely and fair manner to ensure predictability. |
| Natural Resources Industries | Maintain and enhance natural resource based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forest lands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses. |
| Open Space and Recreation | Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks. |
| Environment | Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water. |
| Shorelines of the State | Coordinated planning is necessary in order to protect the public interest associated with the shorelines of the state while, at the same time, recognizing and protecting private property rights consistent with the public interest; and other goals and policies of the Shoreline Management Act, as set forth in RCW 92.58.020 |
| Citizen Participation and Coordination | Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts. |
| Public Facilities and Services | Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards. |
| Historic Preservation | Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archeological significance. |

4. THE PLANNING PROCESS

San Juan County is committed to an inclusive, on-going process of open dialogue, effective communication, community education, and broad public participation in the development of the County's *Comprehensive Plan*. To that end, the Board of County Commissioners appointed forty-six citizens to advisory committees to guide the County in this critical long-range planning effort. Committees representing the three major island districts of San Juan, Orcas and Lopez and a steering committee made up of delegates from the district committees were appointed. Committee members

had a variety of different interests and backgrounds. Although the district and steering committees had distinct roles and responsibilities, their common mission was:

To examine complex and controversial issues facing the county in a manner that fosters constructive and productive interaction among the varied interests and results in a Comprehensive Plan which recognizes the unique qualities of each island community, and provides a vision for the future and clearly defined goals, policies, and strategies for accomplishing that vision.

To achieve the mission the district committees focused on planning issues which related to their districts. The steering committee had the responsibility to guide the county-wide planning process and the public participation campaign.

District Committees

Role: Focus on planning issues which relate to their districts.

Responsibilities:

- Explore community values and ideals to define the desired “quality of life” for their districts;
- Examine the issues and review, discuss and recommend goals, policies and strategies for addressing planning issues which affect the desired quality of life;
- Provide input to the Steering Committee on those issues which require a County-wide perspective;
- Conduct public information sessions, community outreach and education at the district level.

Steering Committee

Role: Guide the County-wide planning process.

Responsibilities:

- Design a highly visible and informative public participation campaign to stimulate broad-based public discussion of the issues;
- Formulate a County "vision" statement, based on input from the district committees, to define the desired quality of life in the County over the next 20 years;
- Develop a framework for the revised *Plan* that combines the input from the districts for County-wide consistency.

The CACs were assisted by the long-range planning staff of the San Juan County Planning Department who, in turn, were assisted by numerous public and private agencies, service providers, and individuals. The CACs met for nearly three years to complete a Final Draft *Plan* which was then forwarded to the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners for further public review and deliberation. The adopted *Plan* is the cumulative effort of many people who spent countless hours to formulate a *Plan* which best meets the diverse needs of County citizens.

Table 3, below, provides a chronology of significant events that have led to the development of the *Comprehensive Plan*.

Table 3. Milestones in Development of the Comprehensive Plan.

| Date | Milestone |
|----------------|--|
| September 1962 | Subdivision Ordinance adopted |
| August 1976 | Waldron Limited Development District adopted |
| October 1976 | Shoreline Master Program adopted |
| October 1979 | Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Regulations adopted |
| December 1981 | Eastsound Village Plan adopted |
| April 1990 | Growth Management Act of 1990 passed by the State legislature |
| November 1990 | Board of County Commissioners vote unanimously to plan according to the Growth |

Table 3. Milestones in Development of the Comprehensive Plan.

| Date | Milestone |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| November 1990 | Management Act |
| July 1991 | Land Bank established by San Juan County voters |
| July 1991 | Comprehensive Water Plan adopted |
| September 1991 | Open Space and Conservation Plan adopted |
| September 1991 | Citizen Technical Advisory Committees appointed to develop recommendations for Interim Regulations for Resource Lands and Critical Areas |
| October 1991 | The County and Town of Friday Harbor sign Memorandum of Agreement to develop Joint Planning Policies |
| December 1991 | Recommendations for Interim Regulations completed |
| Feb.–Nov. 1992 | Planning Commission and BOCC hold hearings on Draft Interim Regulations |
| April 1992 | Eastsound Subarea Plan adopted (completely revised from 1981) |
| July 1992 | Joint Planning Policies adopted with Town of Friday Harbor |
| December 1992 | Interim Regulations (7th Draft) for Resource Lands and Critical Areas adopted |
| January 1993 | Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Strategy Plan completed by the Citizens Advisory Committee on Housing |
| March 1993 | Three District Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs) and a Steering Committee appointed to revise Comprehensive Plan |
| October 1993 | CACs produce county-wide Vision Statement |
| November 1993 | Draft Tourism Plan completed |
| January 1994 | Draft Land Use Element available for CAC and public review |
| May 1994 | County adopts interim Urban Growth Area for Friday Harbor |
| June 1994 | Draft Comprehensive Plan (all elements) available for CAC and public review |
| July 1994 | Shaw Island Subarea Plan adopted |
| July 1995 | Waldron Island Subarea Plan adopted |
| August 1994 | CACs complete review of the Draft Comprehensive Plan |
| January 1995 | Draft Comprehensive Plan and Draft EEIS released for public comment |
| October 1995 | Planning Commission public hearings on Final Draft Comprehensive Plan |
| August 1996 | Shoreline Element of the Plan and Supplemental EIS completed. Addenda to EIS for Friday Harbor Urban Growth Area and Roche Harbor Master Planned Resort completed. Public Hearing held |
| October 10, 1996 | Final EIS released |
| October 1996 | BOCC public hearings on Planning Commission Final Draft Comprehensive Plan |
| December 1996 | BOCC public hearing on Final Draft Comprehensive Plan |
| December 31, 1996 | Final Comprehensive Plan adopted |
| March 1997 | Comprehensive Plan appeal deadline. Fourteen Petitions for Review filed with the Growth Management Hearings Board |
| April 29, 1997 | BOCC repeals the ordinance that adopted the Plan on 12/31/96 |
| October 1, 1997 | SEIS released covering the changes to the Plan and Maps during 10/10/96-12/31/96, proposed revisions to the Plan and Maps, and draft Unified Development Code |
| November 17–20 and December 3–5, 1997 | Joint Planning Commission and BOCC hearings on Comprehensive Plan, Official Maps, and Unified Development Code |
| December 15, 1997–February 13, 1998 | Planning Commission Deliberations |

Table 3. Milestones in Development of the Comprehensive Plan.

| Date | Milestone |
|-------------------------|---|
| March 23–25 & 29, 1998 | BOCC hearings for Comprehensive Plan, Official Maps, and Unified Development Code |
| March 30–April 10, 1998 | BOCC Deliberations |
| June 2, 1998 | BOCC hearing for Comprehensive Plan, Official Maps, and Unified Development Code |
| June 3–15, 1998 | BOCC Deliberations |
| June 15, 1998 | Adoption (but not implementation) of new Comp Plan, UDC, and Official Maps |
| June 17, 1998 | CTED 60-day GMA Review and WDOE Shoreline Master Program Review Begin |
| December 16, 1998 | Publication of Notice of Adoption |
| December 20, 1998 | Implementation of new Comprehensive Plan, Official Maps, and Unified Development Code |

5. ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

The balance of this *Plan* consists of chapters which contain the nine *Plan* elements, definitions, administrative procedures, and supporting documents. The goals and policies contained within each of the elements are the heart of the *Plan*. The goals and policies provide the basis for subsequent implementation measures (development regulations). Each of the elements presents part of the picture for guiding San Juan County's growth. The Land Use Element touches on all of the elements, providing the overall picture and the interconnections between the other elements.

The Growth Management Act prescribes six specific elements that must be contained in a comprehensive plan: Land Use, Rural, Housing, Transportation, Capital Facilities, and Utilities. This *Plan* contains each of these elements, with the section on Rural Lands included within the Land Use Element. At the request of the CACs, additional elements for Governance, Water Resources, and Historic and Cultural Preservation are included in the *Plan*. The foundation of this *Plan* is the Vision Statement. However, this *Plan* also incorporates many components of previous planning efforts.

This *Plan* has a number of supporting documents which provide the issue analysis, facts, forecasts, and findings of the environmental and economic studies, as well as the necessary implementation tools to support and accomplish the *Plan*.

The Unified Development Code is the key to full realization of this *Plan*. This ordinance combines various development regulations into one document. The new format is intended to promote a predictable, accountable, consistent and timely land use planning and permit process.

6. SUMMARY OF LAND USE ASSUMPTIONS AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

This section provides general land use assumptions used in the planning process. The land use assumptions outlined below were used to guide the estimates and forecasts presented in Appendix 1 of this *Plan*. Existing conditions presented in Appendix 1 include historic population estimates, projected population forecasts, estimates of population and dwelling unit distribution, and estimates of the distribution of existing land uses. The land use assumptions are based upon a variety of information sources including, but not limited to, the Washington Office of Financial Management (OFM), the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the Washington Department of Transportation, and local demographic research.

6.1 Land Use Assumptions

The land use assumptions which are outlined below were used in the preparation of this Plan:

- A twenty-year planning time frame (1995 to 2015).

- A projected annual growth rate of 2.5 percent for the unincorporated County (San Juan County's average annual growth rate in the 1980's). The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that counties consider the high, medium, and low population projection series prepared by OFM. San Juan County's population is projected to be 20,442 people by the year 2015 (17,403 in the County and 3,039 in the town of Friday Harbor).
- A projected annual growth rate of 2.78 percent for the Town of Friday Harbor.
- A 1995 base population of 12,300 persons county-wide (OFM).
- The number of persons per household will remain at the 1990 Census level of 2.25 persons per household.
- Population distribution of permanent residents will remain approximately the same during the planning timeframe as it was in 1990 Census.
- San Juan County's population will continue to reach a peak in the month of August. There was a total estimated peak season population of 27,138 in 1995, which included permanent residents, summer residents, and visitors.
- The ratio of permanent residents to others will remain the same through the twenty year planning period with the peak population continuing to be slightly more than double the permanent population. Distribution of the peak season population will remain approximately the same during the planning timeframe as it was in 1995.

6.2 Summary of Existing Conditions

Physical Setting. San Juan County is located in the northwestern portion of Washington State between the mainland of Washington and Vancouver Island, Canada. There are 428 islands exposed at high tide with a total land area of 114,560 acres or 179.3 square miles and with a total of approximately 375 miles of shoreline. They range in size from 36,432 acres to considerably less than one acre. Many of the smaller islands are uninhabitable or are in public ownership; fewer than fifty are potentially available for private development. Only the four largest islands are served by the Washington State Ferry System: Orcas (36,432 acres), San Juan Island (35,448 acres), Lopez (18,847 acres), and Shaw (4,937 acres).

Historic Population. Table 4, *below*, identifies San Juan County's annual population estimate from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) from 1870 to 1995. As this table shows San Juan County's population grew rapidly around the turn of the century, leveled off between 1920 and 1970, and then

Table 4. San Juan County Population, 1870-1996.

| Year | Population | Year | Population | Year | Population |
|------|------------|------|------------|------|------------|
| 1870 | 554 | 1930 | 3,097 | 1991 | 10,700 |
| 1880 | 948 | 1940 | 3,157 | 1992 | 11,300 |
| 1890 | 2,072 | 1950 | 3,245 | 1993 | 11,900 |
| 1900 | 2,928 | 1960 | 2,872 | 1994 | 12,100 |
| 1910 | 3,603 | 1970 | 3,856 | 1995 | 12,300 |
| 1920 | 3,605 | 1980 | 7,838 | 1996 | 12,500 |
| | | 1990 | 10,035 | | |

began to grow rapidly again after 1970. During the first three years of the 1990's the county experienced an average annual growth rate of 5.8 percent. In 1994 and 1995 the county grew at an average rate of 1.66 percent per year.

Population Projections and Distribution. Table 5, below, shows the number and distribution of residents from the 1990 Census. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) provides counties and cities with annual population estimates. OFM's estimate for the unincorporated County is distributed among the islands based on the distribution pattern established by the 1990 Census. The projections are based on a 2.5 percent annual growth rate for the unincorporated County with a base year of 1995. These figures do not reflect seasonal or part-time residents. As this table shows, San Juan Island is the most populous with approximately 40 percent of the unincorporated population. If the Town is included, San Juan Island had approximately 49 percent of the County's 10,035 residents in 1990.

Table 5. Projected Population to 2015 based on a 2.5% Growth Rate.

| Island | 1990 Census | Percent of County | OFM-Projected Population | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 |
| San Juan (excluding TFH) | 3,449 | 34.37 | 4,246 | 4,800 | 5,451 | 6,191 | 7,026 |
| Town of Friday Harbor | 1,492 | 14.87 | 1,810 | 2,077 | 2,359 | 2,678 | 3,039 |
| Orcas | 3,194 | 31.83 | 3,915 | 4,445 | 5,048 | 5,733 | 6,506 |
| Lopez | 1,483 | 14.78 | 1,818 | 2,064 | 2,344 | 2,662 | 3,021 |
| Shaw | 163 | 1.62 | 200 | 227 | 258 | 293 | 332 |
| Blakely | 29 | 0.29 | 36 | 40 | 46 | 52 | 59 |
| Brown | 14 | 0.14 | 17 | 20 | 22 | 25 | 29 |
| Center | 14 | 0.14 | 17 | 20 | 22 | 25 | 29 |
| Crane | 11 | 0.11 | 13 | 15 | 17 | 20 | 22 |
| Decatur | 54 | 0.54 | 66 | 75 | 85 | 97 | 110 |
| Stuart | 40 | 0.40 | 49 | 56 | 63 | 72 | 81 |
| Waldron | 70 | 0.70 | 86 | 97 | 111 | 126 | 143 |
| Other Islands | 22 | 0.22 | 27 | 31 | 35 | 39 | 45 |
| TOTAL | 10,035 | 100.00 | 12,300 | 13,967 | 15,861 | 18,013 | 20,442 |

A complete analysis of population projections and additional information on county demographics is included in Appendices 1 and 5.

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.

ATTACHMENT A: COUNTY COUNCIL VISION AMENDMENTS

June 11, 2018

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.

ATTACHMENT A: COUNTY COUNCIL VISION AMENDMENTS

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.~~