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P.O. Box 947  
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SJC DEPARTMENT OF  
JUL 10 2020  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Attention: Public Comment re Shoreline Master Program Amendments

Dear San Juan County Council and Dept. of Community Development,

**AN UNENFORCED CODE IS AN EXPENSIVE EXERCISE IN WISHFUL THINKING**

Since 1976 my wife and I have been waterfront land owners and part-time residents of Stuart Island.

San Juan County has, in general, done an impressive job of protecting the natural beauty and natural function of its shorelines. We love the islands and hope that our family can continue to enjoy Stuart Island for many generations.

However, the peaceful beauty and natural functions of the shorelines, especially in the "outer islands" are being put at serious risk by a material lack of code enforcement.

Only one code enforcement official is funded in the budget of the Dept. of Community Development.

The consequence is that the only code enforcement on islands like Stuart Island is via citizen complaint. Often residents of small islands are reluctant to report possible code violations.

I suggest the following actions to bring code enforcement to a realistic level:

1. Budget increases to afford at least 3 enforcement officers.
2. Make transportation of code enforcement officers to outer islands available either via the Sheriff's boats or by a boat for the use of the Dept. of Community Development.
3. Increase the fines set out in the code for code violations. Current fines are so small that risking a fine would often be cheaper than obtaining the required permits.
4. Make it easier and more secure for citizens to anonymously report possible code violations.
5. Greatly increase fines for contractors who do work on projects that are unpermitted and violate the Shoreline Master Program. Publicize the identity of contractors that facilitate code violations.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.



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Bruce Keithly (retired attorney. Chairman, in 1973 of Citizens Committee which created the first Snohomish Count Shorelines Management Code. Worked code enforcement at a deputy prosecutor. 40 years of legal work which often involved land use matters.)