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Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Comp Plan Update; Dale Roundy; Steven Rubey; David Kane; tim.planningcomm@gmail.com; cuhlir360@gmail.com; mike@mikepickett.com
Subject: CP Vision Statement Comments, CRSJI, 9/17/20
Attachments: Letter attachment.pdf

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September 17, 2020

Hello Planning Commissioners,

We started this conversation in August referencing changes brought to light by the pandemic. In a follow-up email, we acknowledged civil tensions here in our community. Today, we're a week into the smokey haze of devastating fires burning up and down the West Coast and only the most committed climate deniers fail to recognize the signals these fires are sending.

These are rapidly changing times that call on us to advance a bold vision to guide planning decisions and processes into the future that is unfolding before us.

Please consider a sample of the language we propose for the vision statement and to be reflected in the Comprehensive Plan (attached below). The essence of these changes expresses our understanding that we are dependent on the wellbeing of the natural world and, as such, are responsible to consider and defend the health and wellbeing of that world in all decisions we make.

Thank you for your thoughtful dedication to this work,

Kai Sanburn

Chom Greacen
Liz Lafferty
Julienne Battalia

Community Rights San Juan Islands

Submitted by Community Rights San Juan Islands, September 17, 2020

Rationale and proposed edits to the Vision Statement of the Comprehensive Plan

Rationale:

Covid-19's enforced pause has revealed what we value and exposed our vulnerabilities. We have witnessed our interdependence, as our communities have rallied to provide support where it is needed. We have understood, perhaps more than ever, the good fortune of living in this place that nurtures us so well. We now recognize that we have obligations in this reciprocal relationship.

The Comprehensive Plan and its Vision Statement must reflect what we now know:

- Natural systems are in peril. The oceans and our Salish Sea are at risk. And so are we.*
- We recognize that the health of our land and waters are essential to our wellbeing and security. If nature does not thrive, our communities suffer.*
- We know the relentless demands for growth are only going to accelerate and, thus, understand nature must be recognized as a critical stakeholder and have a seat at the table in all we do.*
- The health and wellbeing of our environment and our interdependence on each other and the natural world underlies and supports all else now and into the future.*

Proposed revision to the Vision Statement by CRSJI

WE THE PEOPLE, citizens/residents of San Juan County, at home in the Salish Sea, understand and value that our healthy community wellbeing is dependent upon the health of our beautiful and bountiful natural environment, vibrant and diverse community,. We acknowledge and respect the obligations we have to each other and to the land and sea. We understand that our freedom, independence, and desire for self-sufficiency, is fundamentally tied to our 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 and our respect for each other and for nature. This is the vision of the San Juan Islands we are committed to working toward.

COMMUNITY: We envision a community that is primarily rural, true to the land and sea it thrives within, 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~~We understand that our dignity, privacy, and freedoms. ~~We communicate effectively and openly and work together toward goals identified as being for~~ arise out of tolerance for diversity and a strongly held value of mutual respect. The uniqueness of each island contributes to our ability to

work together for the common good. We foster a sense of neighborliness, the land and sea on which we depend. We respect the rights of self-sufficiency, and community pride that has long been a part of nature's communities to survive and thrive, just as we respect the rights of our island character. each other to survive and thrive.

BASIC HUMAN NEEDS: Our islands are places where people are safe, day and night. The drinking water is healthy and the 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. Local food is abundant and affordable. We understand that our ability to meet our basic needs, now and in the future, is dependent upon ecosystems that are robust and healthy.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: Our islands and marine waters the Salish Sea 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 are able to thrive, survive and are identified, appreciated and conserved regenerate their vital life cycles.

LAND USE: Neighborhoods, hamlets, villages, towns, and other activity centers are clearly defined to conserve the integrity of rural, agricultural, forest, mineral resource lands, and critical areas. These areas define the health of these lands defines our sense of place, honors our heritage, supports our wellbeing, and sense of place: providing provides for commerce and community activities without losing their small scale and attractive island ambiance. The unique character of our shorelines is protected by encouraging our commitment to uses that maintain or enhance the health of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use strategies, our citizens residents and institutions balance and protect the rights of private property rights, the public rights, and our natural environment, now and into the future.