

Sophia Cassam

From: ron@madrona.org
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 8:50 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: SJC Comp Plan Update Input

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Good Morning Sophia,

On behalf of Islands Climate Resilience (ICR), I am happy to provide the following input to the SJC Comprehensive Plan Update 2036 - a suggested Forward and a Vision Statement addition.

We believe that it is essential to highlight the importance of climate in the county planning process to 2036 and beyond. The language of the suggested Forward speaks for itself in this regard.

As the Comp Plan Update proceeds in the coming months with Planning Commission review of Plan Elements, ICR will endeavor to provide suggestions to each Element of the Plan in the public comment process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input, and we hope that you will give serious consideration to including these suggestions.

Cheers!

Ron

SUGGESTED FORWARD

This Comprehensive Plan is thoroughly updated based upon past plans, state requirements, extensive public input and existing laws and policies. Numerous assumptions and future projections, based upon the best available information and science, inform the elements and the many goals for our Islands community, all inspired by our shared vision as to what we collectively seek to become.

The impacts of rapidly changing global climate regimes, from a local to global scale, are demanding serious attention and creating concerns for human well-being, sustainability and economic prosperity everywhere. It is imperative that our County embrace this unprecedented and overarching reality in this twenty-year plan as well as in all guidance documents to follow.

The recent National Climate Assessment (2018) warns that “Climate change creates new risks and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities in communities across the United States, presenting growing challenges to human health and safety, quality of life, and the rate of economic growth.”

Prioritizing a diversified economy, systems resiliency and goals that remediate, sequester and reduce carbon emissions should be incorporated into policy making within every element of this updated plan.

We are at an inflexion point in history and our community faces critical choices as we collectively strive for greater resilience and self-reliance given the cascading changes we will experience. In the decades ahead the social, economic and environmental reverberations amplified by climate change will not only impose challenges, but also expand opportunities, as yet unanticipated for our County.

Given this overarching reality and our desire to ensure a reasonably prosperous and sustainable future, we endeavor to elevate public awareness and community engagement in affirmative local government in order to marshal the political will and financial investment necessary for transformation toward the resilient and vibrant Islands community we envision.

“Our future will not be determined by chance, it will be determined by choice” (David Suzuki, 2015)

VISION STATEMENT ADDITION (in italics)

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... *working urgently to achieve a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and net carbon neutrality by 2050.*