

Sophia Cassam

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:22 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: FW: Please forward letter to all Planning Commissioners
Attachments: Planning Commssioners June 14 2021.docx

Hi Sophia,

Please see the email below and attachment in regard to the Docket.

Regards,
Lynda

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579 SAN JUAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

-----Original Message-----

From: anne whirledge karp <anneawish@me.com>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: Please forward letter to all Planning Commissioners

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Hi Lynda,

Please forward my attached letter to all of the Planning Commissioners as soon as possible as it concerns issues being discussed in the upcoming Comp Plan Meeting on Friday, June 18, 201 .

Thank you,

Anne Whirledge-Karp

June 14, 2021

Greetings Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to you today to express my opinions concerning some pressing issues that are being addressed at the SJC Comprehensive Plan Meeting, on Friday, June 18, 2021.

I would like to encourage you to be very cautious concerning any de-designation requests of Agricultural Resource Land and Forest Resource Lands. I know that the Planning Department Staff has made recommendations concerning requested changes but that your final decisions are very important. WA State Commissioner of Lands, Hilary Franz, is currently making efforts to ensure that a million acres of Ag and Forest Resource Lands are NOT de-designated, realizing the value of these acres for carbon sequestration, water quality & quantity, land stability, habitat for fish and wildlife, and air quality. WA state's Healthy Forest Plan applies for both large and small forest owners and 'best practices' laid out will help protect both public and private lands from wildfires, drought, and improve air quality for all. Please continue to support these efforts by NOT de-designating land out of Agricultural and Forest Resource Land in SJC.

In addition, please support the Docket Request 21-0005, Tree Retention and Protection. With the increased danger of fire and drought within the state, I firmly believe science is indicating that increasing efforts toward protection and health are needed more than previously addressed. These concerns should be for all forest owners, large and small and NOT just in "critical areas". Again, according to WA State Public Lands Administration, the risks and need for forest protection has greatly increased in Western WA. Looking around within the islands and Salish Sea Bioregion the effects of poor forest health can be seen through increasing diseased and dying trees. Practices that will restore these forests both large & small, private & public back to health will benefit all living beings in the region as well as provide more resilience to Climate Change. The solution is keeping these forests intact and healthy.

Finally, I hope you will support the need for more clarity to the public concerning the need for a 'Build Out Analysis' and a better understanding of the interconnectedness of the 'Carrying Capacity' within the San Juan Islands. This is expressed in Docket Request 21-0003. A major concern should be to understand the limits of the aquifer in providing sustainable water for a healthy nature and the effects that increased development will have. 'Trucked in' water and also water 'catchment' systems are not viable/sustainable water sources for these increasing times of drought we see happening. Maintaining the 'rural' characteristics of SJC with a healthy and protected nature is certainly of grave concern for local residents and visitors alike.

With regards to all the aforementioned concerns, humankind is part of nature and the fate of both is intertwined. A healthy, resilient nature will provide a healthy, resilient habitat for humankind.

Thank you for the work you have been doing and for your continued efforts in finding the best solutions to the challenges faced by San Juan Co and the surrounding communities of the Salish Sea.

Thank you for your quick reply back that you have received this letter to: anne@awish.net.

Anne Whirlledge-Karp, former Lopez Island resident and small forest owner.