

Sophia Cassam

From: sadie b <salim3796@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 7:47 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: My public comment for today's hearing
Attachments: comments for PC hearing 6-18-21.odt

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Hi Sophia;

I hope to attend via zoom and read page one of my letter as my Public Comment. Please keep my letter in the permanent record. Thank you very much for your assistance with this.

Sincerely,
B. Sadie Bailey

June 17, 2021

Dear Planning Commission, Development Department, and County Council;

I am dismayed to see that the Docket item 21-0003, Buildout Analysis, is *NOT recommended* to be on the 2021 work docket. A complete analysis or Truth in Planning has never been effected; the work is incomplete and lacking in important data.

So much is happening all at once; Charter Review, Comp Plan Review, unsolved Vacation Rental Permit issues and saturation in Eastsound in particular, proposed land use changes and density increases in UGAs - all with incomplete data. (see addendum)

I ask the Planning Commission to thoughtfully consider these concerns, and ask that you recommend the following:

1) Please support and recommend that Docket 21-0003 Buildout Analysis be done, and included in the preface to the Comp Plan and Charter Review updates. This should be the driver of both our vision and our regulations. We need Truth in Planning.

2) Please *do NOT* recommend Docket Item 21-0006, concerning density increases and land use change requests from property owners in and around Eastsound UGA - for obvious reasons stated in this letter.

3) Please recommend that Docket 21-0008, Storm Water, and Docket 21-0005, Trees, be at the top of the 2021 Docket priorities.

I will end this letter by stating my confusion about updating the Comp Plan *before* the Public votes on the Charter Review Proposed Changes in November. This seems to put the cart before the horse. I feel that it minimizes the time and energy the volunteers have put into the Charter Review, as well as the undermines the voting Public in having a real voice in effecting our future. If I misunderstand, please educate me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

B. Sadie Bailey - 40 year resident of Orcas; 30 of them in Eastsound

ADDENDUM, concerning data:

Climate Change should be the driver of all data we gather, and all regulations we make. We need water quality studies, including impending shortages due to climate change. We need to consider Doug Whittaker's data done on visitors, transportation, and impacts of the tourism industry and how that may relate to VRs. We need accurate assessment of the VR problem and continuance of existing moratoriums. With the VR moratorium ending in mid-July, we need a Plan to prevent what was *supposed* to be 50% + of our year round population living in our UGAs (mandated by the GMA) from becoming empty buildings and VRs driven by the chamber of commerce, real estate advertising, and the tourism industry in general driving "market rates" sky high.

Environmental degradation studies have never been done; quite the contrary. Traffic and Transportation issues with increased UGA densities and visitor impacts have not been studied; that should have started years ago, with annual updates. Loss of clean drinking water, saltwater intrusion, stormwater issues, shoreline and nearshore pollution issues, removal of needed forests and tree canopy in UGA wetlands (windbreaks are hugely important), water diversion killing downslope trees, silt intrusion in our waterways, light pollution, effluent and stormwater pollution dumped into our nearshore waters, chances of flooding, liquefaction zones, sea level rise affecting UGAs - Eastsound in particular; EMF effects on people, animals, and plants...the list goes on and on. We need a better way to respect and honor (and leave intact) Indigenous burial grounds and the bones found all over these islands when uprooting their ancestral grounds with excavators.

We have needed accurate data for decades meanwhile, the bulldozers never stop. Now is the time.

We need to be compiling adequate and continually updated data. We need to put the brakes on, and regulate, unlimited growth and development; especially speculative real estate investment, while we try to figure our way forward - if we are lucky enough to have a way forward.