

Adam Zack

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 8:59 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: FW: VR Comments, Marcia deChadenedes

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From: Marcia deChadenedes <mdechade@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 10:18 PM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Cc: county@sanjuanco.com
Subject: VR Comments, Marcia deChadenedes

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Planning Committee Members

I first want to express my gratitude for the enormous effort you have volunteered for, enormous in both responsibility and time. Thank you for your dedication to working toward the best outcomes for our communities, working on the front lines, as it were.

I have three suggestions for you to consider.

1 - A goal that the county council set several years ago was for sustainable tourism. A generally accepted definition is this:

Sustainable tourism sustains or enhances the local environment, culture, aesthetic, sense of place, and history of a setting.

When you make your decisions, if they weigh out to the positive with these criteria that's a good sign!

2 - A couple of years ago the County Council invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to accomplish research on local businesses, residents, and visitors interests and desires for tourism. You can find the research summaries here:

<https://www.sanjuanco.com/1391/San-Juan-Islands-Visitor-Study>

<https://sjclandbank.org/results-from-the-islands-wide-survey-about-tourism-and-visitor-management-in-the-san-juan-islands/>

The Businesses and Residents Study, published Jan 2020, (second link), has an illuminating Executive Summary. Specific to the VR discussion, see pages 33 and 34.

If you trust the research, basing your decision on that alone, a cap on VRs is a logical decision.

3 - To my knowledge there has never been a water study for Lopez that reflects the needs of existing homes. The Visitors Study dated 2018 (first link) breaks out information specific to each island. The study says that there are 5507 houses occupied year round and 4947 unoccupied in the islands. Also there are 2201 long term rentals and 964 vacation rentals. Of course these numbers have changed a bit since then.

It would be reasonable to delay any long term decision re VRs until a measure of sustainable water use is completed. Amount of fresh water should be adequate to provide for all those homes and long term rentals, regardless of their present occupied status. They are owned by tax payers who expected to have their county not sell their water out from under them for short term capital gain of the few. Of course, someone will point out desalinization options. Reference that back to the sustainable tourism definition.

If you capped VRs now that would meet the wishes of the community, shown both by all the noise and by these studies. Then by conducting the study, the relative amount of fresh water remaining should all those homes be filled to capacity could be sorted out to the visitor services - hotels, VRs, and camping.

Thank you for considering my suggested solution, and again, thank you for wading through this complex decision.

Marcia deChadenedes
Sent from my iPad

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