

Adam Zack

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 8:49 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: FW: Capping the number of VR permits in SJC

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From: Kenneth Gibbs <kenneth.gibbs@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 5:52 PM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Cc: San Juan County Council <councilvm@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: Capping the number of VR permits in SJC

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Dear San Juan County Planning Commission and San Juan County Council

I have downloaded both the current (as of 17 August) Vacation Rental Permit database (csv) and the Tax Parcels database (also csv) and by merging these files have reviewed the distribution of VR permits, both active and currently approved but inactive by island.

From these data it is manifestly clear that Orcas bears the brunt of the impact of VRs on our island community. The number of VR permits on Orcas (479) is 25% higher than that on San Juan Island and three times that on Lopez. In 2021 the number of "active" permits on all three islands, presumably those accepting bookings, was roughly 40% of the total. And yet it was quite clear here on Orcas that our island community including the business community was under considerable strain. While Council members from Lopez and San Juan may not perceive and impact from VRs, we here on Orcas certainly do.

The Planning Commission has proposed a cap on VR permits which is moderately greater than the number already permitted. This is manifestly prudent and I strongly support their proposal. I would in fact like to see the number of VR permits ratchet down as existing permits are forfeited, either by choice or as a result of non-compliance.

Regards,
Kenneth Gibbs
Deer Harbor, Orcas