

Sophia Cassam

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To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: Comments on 2021 Docket

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The planning staff should create some kind of build-out analysis with specific attention to the limits of fresh water usage. The current real estate boom in both existing housing and raw land is just the first in many to follow as climate change refugees and people seeking to leave turbulent urban areas continue into the future. This increase in population and land use is not a blip. It will be a continuing pressure on our resources and ability to sustain ourselves as a resilient community. There must be enough ground water **OVER AND ABOVE NOW EXPANDING RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEEDS** to allow new farms and ranches to expand as our primary reliance on food goods from outside the county changes in response to rising prices in fossil fuels at industrial farms and truck transport to address carbon emissions.

There are probably nuances lost on me in the current zoning of the county but I support commercial composting on designated ag resource lands as well as in the other zones. The claims that commercial composting has to be a huge industrial process and is therefore incompatible is a red herring. It seems to me that a farm or ranch on ARL may well be the most appropriate location for creating a commercial composting operation. Such an operation is sorely needed and reducing the acreage upon which a business can be established is counter-productive. The permitting process should adequately address unacceptable effects to resources and neighboring uses. It seems likely to me that there would be fewer NIMBY reactions to a moderate scale composting facility on existing ARL. We are small in population and even with rapid growth as seems likely, our volume of compostable waste will not be of industrial proportions. Composting is a traditional farming/ranching activity.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Steve Ulvi
San Juan Island