

Sophia Cassam

From: Kate Kimball <katekimball@peak.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 5:04 PM
To: Sophia Cassam
Cc: San Juan County Council
Subject: Docket Request 21-0003

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Dear Council Members:

I urge the County Council to put Docket 21-0003 on the work plan for DCD as part of the process for completing the Comprehensive Plan update.

The staff recommendation is that you not adopt this docket item because (a) doing a full build out analysis would consume too much of limited staff resources and (2) the docket item has been mostly already addressed elsewhere. Without knowing anything substantive about the issue, I can tell there's a problem because these reasons conflict with one another. They cannot both be true. The only way I have found to reconcile these two objections is that a true build out analysis isn't being done and one is not planned. I understand that overworked staff might not be eager to take on another project, but that's not a substantive objection. None of the staff concerns address the merits of a build out analysis as a tool in planning.

Orcas is so much more crowded than it used to be and it's all the time, not just "tourist season." The village is already morphing into a town, the rural areas into suburbia. How much more crowded can we become? We need to see that final destination because we're already packed in the car for the road trip and the vehicle is picking up speed. I'm not going to feel very good when all the predictable things happen (traffic lights, no place for people who work here to live — oops, already happening — skies without stars, water restrictions, road widening, taller buildings) and then someone asks why we refused to see where we were heading. At some point, this analysis will have to be done. I'd rather not wait until we're out of drinking water to do it.

Docket 21-0003 is a reasonable and necessary way to find out what the world will look like if we do nothing. I urge you to support its adoption.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Kate Kimball
Orcas Island