

Sophia Cassam

From: julian at rockisland.com <julian@rockisland.com>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 12:57 PM
To: Sophia Cassam
Cc: Christine Minney; julian@rockisland.com
Subject: Letter-County docket request 21-0003
Attachments: buildoutanalysis.pdf

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Hello Sophia,
Please forward the attached letter regarding docket request 21-0003 "Build-Out Analysis" to our County Council members.
Thank you,
Julie Greene

cc Christine Minney

TO San Juan County Council
FROM Julie Greene and Ian Walt
DATE September 10, 2021
RE 21-0003 BUILD-OUT ANALYSIS

We ask that the County Council provide a full build-out analysis prior to considering expansion of the UGA for community development. The Planning Commission and the community deserve to have adequate and accurate information before making further recommendations to the Council.

Well-founded facts supporting a need for UGA expansion should be produced and analyzed before carefully considering whether to open the door to irreversible development and urban sprawl that will affect our shared environment, open spaces, and rural island lifestyle. Limited resources, limited ferry capacity, climate change, and the expense of creating urban utility infrastructure should make population growth a critical discussion for all of us. But first we need sufficient data.

In their recent review of four Town applications to bring County properties into the UGA for future annexation into the Town, County Planning Commissioners questioned the “cart before the horse” approach the staff had presented to them. Specifically, the Town had not provided required population data to support their request. We appreciate that, based on this, the commissioners withheld further review of two of the requests until proper documentation is provided. However, County staff said they would keep all four requests on their schedule for planned open house discussions—making it clear they believe the Town will come up with the necessary figures. This may be true, but the assumption is worrying as it gives the unintended appearance of a rush toward development. A build-out analysis should be required to confirm the need for this level of development.

Thank you for the hard work you do for our county. Your position as council members is certainly not easy.

Best regards,

Julie Greene and Ian Walt
San Juan Island
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