

Sophia Cassam

From: Karen Hays <swnekeh@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 11:02 AM
To: Council Public Comment
Cc: Sophia Cassam
Subject: Support Symon's Docket Request #21-0003

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September 14, 2021

To San Juan County Council:

We have been property owners and taxpayers on Orcas Island since 1988. We are writing to support Joe Symons' docket request for San Juan County to perform a build-out analysis to study the impact of population growth on our resources and quality of life.

I can think of no other action that the county leaders can take that will address and integrate all of the issues listed so beautifully on the San Juan County Vision and Missions statements. In particular, I draw your attention to the following from the Mission Statement and its Guiding Principles (1997):

- Provide those public services necessary for the health, safety, and general well-being of the citizens [and residents] of San Juan County.
- Strive to **preserve the heritage of the islands**, both environmentally and culturally.
- Conduct the public's business in a manner which is responsive, accessible and open to county citizens
- Encourage a strong local economy consistent with our rural lifestyle
- **Protect our physical environment as our most precious natural resource** [in particular, the limited fresh water resources]

Further down in the Guiding Principles, there are statements about protecting property rights and fostering private property responsibilities. I challenge the County government leaders to undertake a rigorous and thoughtful analysis to discover ways that those principles can align with all the others in such a way that acknowledges that expanding the county's population to over 130,000 would create an unlivable dystopia for humans, plants, and animals alike. Loving the islands to death is not an option.

Please use Joe Symon's request as a challenge to think carefully about what the rest of the century will hold for these precious island jewels of the Salish Sea. As you have probably heard before, **failing to plan is planning to fail**. Don't let San Juan County be the next example used by Harvard Business School to describe "[the tragedy of the commons](#)" in the early 21st century.

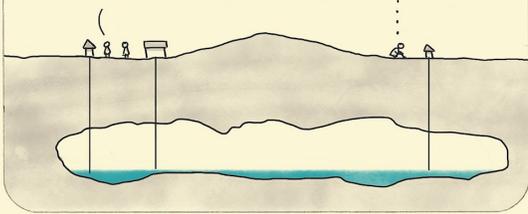
Thank you for your time and attention,
Karen Hays and Scott Norquist
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THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS

WHEN SHORT-TERM SELF-INTEREST LEADS TO TRAGEDY FOR ALL

WATER BELONGS TO
ANYONE. I TAKE AS
MUCH AS I WANT

SEEMS THERE'S LESS
AND LESS THESE DAYS



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