

Sophia Cassam

From: Naomi Aldort <naomi@aldort.com>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 2:05 PM
To: San Juan County Council; Sophia Cassam
Subject: Support Docket Request 21-0003

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To: San Juan County Council From:
Naomi Aldort, Eastsound WA
Date: 24 September 2021
Re: Docket request 21-0003

***If we are to keep the vision statement; our commitment to the environment,
rural life, beauty and quiet, then we cannot bow to profit.***

I have lived on Orcas island for 28 years, and saw it moving away from its vision statement, and faster in recent years since Vacation Rentals came to be.

I find the council's fight against the people, by being reluctant to expose issues and take action, revolting. Like the rest of the USA, it seems officials feel obligated to business people and the wealthy at the cost of everything and the majority of the people. If money would be lost, the vision statement can be dumped and quality of life destroyed.

As the population grows, the qualities that draw people here and keep them here, degrade. The process has accelerated in the past few years to the point that the vacation rental visitor increase, a form of increased population, has become too invasive and disruptive to ignore. Many tourists end up residents.

The population of San Juan County, has grown from stable 4000 residents to 17,000, i.e., over 4 times larger than its historical average. If this trends continues, we will see our islands' rural nature destroyed - it already is to a great degree.

Incredibly: The maximum buildout population is over 130,000 should every parcel be developed to its maximum legal potential. The data to make this calculation is available at DCD and has been made available to you and to the public for many weeks. Most recently, the data was submitted to you in Joe Simon's letter Sep. 09, 2021 and available at [http:// doebay.net/sunshine/Docket03lettertoCC.pdf](http://doebay.net/sunshine/Docket03lettertoCC.pdf)

Surely if the officials felt the numbers were seriously in error, it would have made some attempt to correct the record. It would appear that rather than challenge the calculations, officials have chosen the strategy of hoping no one else would notice. We all noticed. We feel the growth already when driving, walking parking... and we know these numbers will destroy these islands.

A buildout analysis is a fundamental informational component that that must be addressed.

The only explanation for why the county has consistently refused to perform this simple calculation and make it public is that the county does not want the public to know that it knows what the buildout population potential

could be. Why? Because if the county makes that number public, it would expect a considerable political backlash. Why would that be? Because the public imagines that what they experience here in the county is how it will “always be”.

Docket 03 would, if approved, ask the county to do something that should have been done 30 years ago, something critical for the beneficial future of all living entities in the county.

The never-discussed density map is a betrayal of the trust that has been assigned to Council by the residents of the county.

The inconsistency between the vision statement and the density map implications must be addressed asap.

Sincerely,
Naomi Aldort
Orcas Island

"Transforming parent-child relationship from reaction and struggle to freedom, power and joy." - Naomi Aldort

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