

Sophia Cassam

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Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Sophia Cassam
Cc: San Juan County Council
Subject: Docket Request 21-0003

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Members of the San Juan County Council:

I am writing to request that you put Docket 21-0003 on the work plan for DCD as part of the process for completing the Comprehensive Plan update.

This docket item is about the county doing a full built-out analysis. To be blunt: who cares? Isn't that some esoteric idea that is a lot of work for staff but has no practical effect? Why make this part of a Comprehensive Plan update?

We humans are amazing creatures but we have some weak spots. We are equipped with inspiring creativity and innovation, but we are often at a loss when it comes to managing the effects of our collective behavior over time. We have a habit of loving places to death and then being surprised by what we've done. I don't want that to happen to Orcas, but the pattern has been pretty well set already in other communities who faced the crush of too much love.

Modern land use planning has given us tools to take snapshots of the future and decide if that future is what we want for ourselves and those who come after us. The full build-out analysis, and an assessment of whether we have the resources to support that number of people, is the best lens we have for seeing where we are heading.

If we are so afraid of the future that we are already scared to look at it, then we are already in serious trouble. Blinding ourselves makes it all but certain that Orcas will stop being a place travel journalists celebrate. They will instead write eulogies asking what happened and why the people didn't stir themselves to protect it better.

Let us stir ourselves to look calmly into the future by gathering information this docket item would produce and then talk discuss what it means for our communities. We live here and the future is ours to mold. Far from being afraid, we could be excited by this opportunity to learn how to love well a county as special as this.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Kate Kimball
Olga, WA