

## Adam Zack

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**From:** Jan Scilipoti <hostingontherock@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2021 8:17 AM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** Water Usage in VRs

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September 23, 2021

Members of the San Juan County Council and Planning Commission

### Re: Water Usage in Vacation Rentals

Dear Members of the San Juan County Council and Planning Commission,

In the public comments and emails from community members, several have mentioned that vacation rentals use more water than other island homes.

We have found no evidence to show that vacation rental homes should be targeted because they use more water than any other island home.

In fact, the Eastsound Water Usage Analysis (EWUA) Board released a statement on September 22, 2021 stating that *"There is no evidence that vacation rentals are using water in excess or inappropriately," said Tenar Hall, Board member and mathematician. "We have gone through the data extensively and have found no evidence that vacation rentals are having any adverse effects on our water system."*

<https://eastsoundwater.org/board-data-correction/>

Things to consider:

1. Most vacation rentals host guests less than 360 days a year, thereby using less resources than a home with year-round inhabitants.
1. Many vacation rentals do not have vegetable gardens and extensive landscaping that require heavy water use for irrigation.
1. Under the new 2018 vacation rental regulations, all compliant vacation rental permit holders are required to mention our limited water resources to all guests prior to booking. All guests must agree to these house rules, and the same guidelines must be posted in each rental.

Specifically, the sample SJC "Rules of Conduct" regarding water reads:

*"Please remember we have limited resources on the island. Do not leave water running when not necessary; while brushing teeth, washing dishes, long showers, etc. Please don't wash cars or use water unnecessarily. We appreciate your effort to help maintain our limited supply."*

Many vacation rental hosts are willing to talk about how ALL users of water might reduce our usage, including residents, visitors such as friends and family, vacation rental guests, hotel guests, campers and boaters.

But we must stop pinning the problem on vacation rentals without data to support the claims. **Please use your positions of leadership to counteract these false claims by publicly mentioning the EWUA's statement on vacation rental water usage.**

Sincerely,

Jan Scilipoti  
Lopez Island