

## Adam Zack

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**From:** Sorrel <sorrel@seventhstone.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 7:24 PM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments; Lynda Guernsey  
**Subject:** Reversal of August 20th decision

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Dear Planning Commissioners,

I was shocked and appalled to find out that four of you reversed your August 20th decision to freeze vacation rental permits at the active/compliant number (413) and instead caved to the business interests of the VR lobby. Wow, really? We Lopezians feel seriously betrayed.

You heard from hundreds of us, including multiple business owners, telling you we CANNOT handle the level of tourism we're already experiencing. We were thrilled that you recognized and heard our voices, along with those from all the other islands. What the heck happened? Are you telling us that our concerns mean nothing, our problems are irrelevant, but already affluent people (half of whom don't even live in the islands) making more money is what really matters? If this is what you truly believe, please give up your position to someone who wants to represent the will of the people.

Inactive permit holders are just that: inactive. If they really wanted to run a VR they would have done so already. You are favoring the interests of affluent second home owners over folks like me, a 40-year resident who has worked multiple jobs and is the grandmother of a third-generation islander.

Unlike businesses that serve tourists and locals alike, vacation rentals benefit no one but their owners, and often have deeply negative effects on neighborhoods. The two VRs on my lane are owned by off-islanders. They don't have to put up with a series of strangers making noise at all hours and wasting our precious well water washing their cars.

The Planning Commission is supposed to be working on behalf of the the residents of San Juan County and our fragile ecosystem. Commissioners are not appointed to follow their own personal interests or cater to the 1% of business owners who do nothing for our community. This is not a political game of who lobbies hardest from month to month. If your vote means nothing and you can change it every month, why vote at all?

Please honor your original decision to freeze vacation rentals at the active-compliant number. Send your recommendation to the County Council and be done with it!

Thank you,

Sorrel North  
Lopez Island