

## Linda Ann Kuller

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**From:** Sandi Friel <sandi@rockisland.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 5, 2017 9:16 PM  
**To:** Comp Plan Update  
**Cc:** Jamie Stephens; Rick Hughes; Bill Watson  
**Subject:** Comprehensive Plan Update - Public Participation

Dear Erika Shook and County Councilors,

I'm writing regarding a concern I have with the Public Participation component of Comprehensive Plan Update.

The GMA requires the county ensure "early and continuous participation throughout the Comprehensive Plan Update process," and that's not happening. The email address [CompPlanComments@sanjuanico.com](mailto:CompPlanComments@sanjuanico.com) is not even listed on the county website yet.

The June 2016 SJC Public Participation Plan appears to be a regurgitation of GMA requirements and broad goals as opposed to a detailed proposal of how the public will be engaged. I haven't seen any implementation of public outreach to date, save for the Eastsound Visioning Process which is an EPRC-led endeavor limited to Eastsound only.

The SJC Comp Plan Schedule "Attachment C" states that between July 2016 and January 2017 "staff coordinates with Town, hires professional services for visioning, finishes gathering data and inventories and initiates public outreach..." A revised work schedule (found independently, not published on the county website) indicates this step has been shifted to March-June 2017. This seems very time crunched for something as comprehensive as the Comp Plan with its myriad stakeholders and competing priorities. It's already March and we haven't heard anything about a public process, not even an article in the paper stating the Comp Plan is scheduled to be updated and how or when the public will be able to participate.

A group of interested dedicated citizens has been actively studying the plan and would really like to see partnership from the county, updated data sets for planning (on Feb. 16th I was told by SJC the population element and buildout analysis had not yet been completed), and a countywide visioning process similar to what has been completed for Eastsound.

The comprehensive plan expresses a community's vision of itself, the community it would like to become, its hopes and dreams, and the philosophical underpinning for any planning activity. It is an expression of the "public interest," in the sense of exercising the public authority of a municipality. We have such an opportunity to create something unique and purposeful here, as well as truly address the challenges we face, as opposed to merely checking off the GMA compliance boxes. We need the county to initiate and lead a meaningful engagement process, and quickly. Please!

Thank you for your consideration,

Sandi Friel  
Orcas Island