

Adam Zack

From: Erika Shook
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 5:38 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: FW: Transition Lopez Island Comments on the Comp Plan Vision Statement
Attachments: SJC Comp Plan Vision Letter.pdf

From: Transition Lopez Island [mailto:info@transitionlopezisland.org]
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 3:19 PM
To: DL - Council <Council@sanjuanico.com>
Cc: Erika Shook <erikas@sanjuanico.com>; Linda Ann Kuller <lindak@sanjuanico.com>
Subject: Transition Lopez Island Comments on the Comp Plan Vision Statement

Attached please find a letter from the Steering Committee of Transition Lopez Island with our comments on the Vision Statement due today.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need this in a different format (e.g. Word instead of pdf).

Respectfully,
Ande Finley
Chair



November 30, 2017

San Juan County Council
350 Court Street, No. 1
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Dear Council Members,

Transition Lopez Island, established in 2012 as the 152nd Initiative in the U.S., is part of a worldwide movement that strives to build resilience in its communities to not only withstand the shock of predictable as well as unexpected changes, but to thrive. We are passionate about anything that moves us in a direction towards sustainability, regeneration, and empowerment. Our membership comprises almost 140 Lopez residents and 16 of us, the undersigned, participate in the Steering Committee. We partner with many organizations in the San Juans, including the Lopez Community Land Trust, Lopez Locavores, Lopez Family Resource Center, Lopez Community Trails Network, Islands Energy, Friends of the San Juans, and Islands Climate Resilience.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input into the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan. We have the following comments on the Vision Statement.

1. We understand the difficulties and complexities of categorizing various issues addressed in the Comp Plan due to their inter-relatedness. Currently, however, the headings in the vision statement do not match well with the elements in the detailed comp plan. Having reviewed a few comprehensive plans from other jurisdictions, we found some that are worth considering adapting from, if not during this update, then perhaps in the future. A notable example is the Martha Vineyard Comprehensive Plan. One feature that we appreciate is the side-by-side presentation of facts (current status of things and analysis of future challenges and opportunities) and strategies in their [Overview document](#).
2. We have suggested edits to the Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement as seen in the table below in yellow highlights.



A DECLARATION OF VISION AND COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF SAN JUAN COUNTY

PREAMBLE

WE THE PEOPLE of San Juan County recognize that these rural islands are an extraordinary treasure of natural beauty and abundance, and that inter-dependence, resilience, and personal freedom are values prized by islanders. By making wise choices now, we can make sure that the future communities of the San Juan Islands will be places we will be grateful to live in. Much of what we need to do to prepare for the challenges of climate and energy can bring us what we all want: a close-knit and healthy community; increased self-reliance; clean air and abundant water; local, nutritious food; and a thriving, resilient economy. Being a diverse people bound together by these shared values, we declare our commitment to work towards this vision of the San Juan Islands in 2036 A.D.

COMMUNITY

We envision a community that is primarily rural, made up of islands of varying character, each with its own unique qualities. The islands are places of peace and mutual tolerance, where citizens of differing backgrounds and beliefs respect each other's dignity, privacy, and freedoms. We communicate effectively and openly and work together toward goals identified as being for the common good. We foster a sense of neighborliness, of self-sufficiency, community and pride that has long been a part of our island character. Our island communities, ecology and economy thrive and are resilient in the face of a changing climate and a range of other stressors.

BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Our islands are places where all citizens can safely walk or play, day or night. The community is deeply attuned to the gift of our island's natural resources and keenly aware of preserving our drinking water supply to ensure that it remains clean and adequate. Health care and help in time of need are accessible and affordable. The supply of affordable housing and local food is adequate to meet the needs of our diverse population.

EDUCATION

Learning is a continuing lifelong process which is encouraged and aided by the community. A partnership of families and community creates a supportive and challenging environment founded on academic excellence and artistic expression. This educational environment produces ethical, self-directed, compassionate, responsible world citizens, alive with the love of learning.

LAND USE

Neighborhoods, hamlets, villages and towns are clearly defined so as to conserve agricultural, forest, mineral resources and environmentally sensitive lands. These areas provide for commerce and community activities without losing their small scale and attractive island ambiance. There is housing for people of all incomes in all seasons. The unique character of our shorelines is protected by limiting building in sensitive areas and encouraging uses which maintain or enhance the quality of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use strategies, our citizens and institutions balance and protect affordability, private property rights, public rights, and our natural environment.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

We have water, land, and air transportation systems commensurate with our island culture and geography. On-island circulation is by means of a system of scenic rural roads with automobile, bicycle, livestock and pedestrian ways functioning without conflict. Our town and village centers are compact, mixed-use and walkable. In some places, the roads are unpaved, narrow, and winding, and care is taken to maintain a rustic quality in public signs. Expansion or new construction of basic public transportation facilities occurs only on the basis of demonstrated local public need. Public transportation and advanced interactive communication systems are encouraged.

ENERGY AND RESOURCES

Our community actively fosters renewable energy and resource conservation. Energy independence and



ECONOMY

We support a pattern of economic growth and development which serves the needs of our community enhances self-reliance and recognizes the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural, marine and isolated nature of the islands. Our economy comprises a wide spectrum of stable, year-round activities that provide employment for islanders. We support and encourage traditional industries including forestry, GMO-Free farming, aquaculture, construction, fishing and tourism without jeopardizing the resources on which they depend. We support establishment of worker-owned cooperatives, home occupations and cottage industries, which are compatible with surrounding neighborhoods and rural land use activities. We encourage new ideas and new technology for improving the quality and profitability of our goods and services. Value-added activities are encouraged. Environmental conservation is considered first in our commitment to and sustainable development are balanced.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

It is predicted that climate change will have a dramatic effect on our environment in the coming decades. Our region is likely to see summer droughts, increased winter rainfall, continued ocean acidification, rising sea level, and steadily warming waters, all of which will impact our natural resources. Every decision, politics, programs and regulations are informed by climate change considerations and the best available science.

Our islands have exceptional natural beauty and healthy diverse ecosystems surrounded by pollution-free marine waters. The air is fresh and clean, the water quality is excellent, and the soil and shorelines are uncontaminated. As careful stewards of these islands, we act to enhance soil fertility conserve resources, preserve open space, and take appropriate action to assure healthy land and marine environments, and to adapt to anticipated climate change impacts. Native plants and animals of the islands thrive, and are identified, appreciated and conserved.

equitable and affordable access are encouraged.

Composting, reusing, repurposing, recycling, solid waste, and sewage treatment are managed within the confines of each island in an environmentally sound manner. Renewable natural resources are used on a regenerative basis. Nonrenewable resources are conserved and replaced by renewable resources wherever possible and practical. We work determinedly towards a carbon-neutral future.

ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION

Our community nurtures the expression of its creative talents and supports diverse cultural and entertainment activities. Our cultural facilities such as libraries, museums, and theaters are focal points of activity and community support. Well managed parks, trails, and shoreline access, where appropriate, provide islanders with recreation with due regard for both the rights of private property owners and the natural and cultural limitations of each site.

HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Our community is enriched by a strong sense of identity, tradition, legacy, and continuity, where past and present freely mingle. We recognize the contributions to our rural and maritime heritage made by indigenous peoples, explorers, and island pioneers, and encourage the preservation of that heritage. We encourage preservation of historic sites, structures, and traditions for the enjoyment of all and support activities that reflect and advance rural traditions such as farming, fishing and forestry.

GOVERNANCE

We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are equally represented by elected officials who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open manner, which recognizes the inter-dependent, resourceful, self-reliant nature of its citizens and seeks solutions that will sustain our unique rural way of life. Our government institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate services where practical, manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a timely manner.



OUR COMMITMENT:

AS FORTUNATE CITIZENS OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS, WE COMMIT ourselves individually and communally to a future for ourselves and our children that reflects this vision. To this end, we, the undersigned individuals dedicate our time and our talents.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Our group will provide input on the different elements of the Comprehensive Plan separately. We are available to provide further clarification and respond to questions if needed. Our contact person is Ande Finley (email: andefinley@gmail.com, tel. 468-5199).

Yours sincerely,

Ande Finley

Digitally signed by Ande Finley
DN: cn=Ande Finley, o=ou,
email=andefinley@gmail.com, c=US
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Transition Lopez Island Steering Committee

Ande Finley - Chair
Erika Davis
Scott Finley
Kim Foley
Bob Gerfy
Chom Greacen
Felicity Green
Marisa James
Margot Janeway
Kay Keeler
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