

Adam Zack

From: Diana Sheridan <dianabsheridan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 12:12 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Public Comment for Planning Commission meeting March 16th, 2018

Dear Members of the SJC Planning Commission,

I would like to request the addition of a new stand-alone section to the Vision Statement dedicated to Agriculture.

I am Diana Sheridan, a resident of Lopez Island, and I was involved on the board of the Lopez Community Land Trust when we made the decision to purchase Stonecrest Farm, with the goal of holding farmland in trust and developing the infrastructure for a new generation of farmers committed to sustainable agriculture here on Lopez Island—and I continue to be a volunteer engaged in agricultural support such as helping to harvest when needed by a local farmer and also as a member of the gleaning team committed to food support for our local school.

As we experience a significant loss of affordable and productive farmland, with increasingly limited financial commitments and training opportunities, we must generate a system of sustainable agriculture that supports farmland acquisition, affordable training opportunities for emerging farmers, and healthy farming practices that will result in a regenerative food system for our children and all members of our island communities.

Please add a new stand-alone section to the Vision Statement dedicated to Agriculture.

This is vitally important for the existing references to agriculture are scattered among several of the Vision Statement elements, yet there is no succinct and uniform statement that accurately reflects the importance of agriculture to our community.

There were abundant comments during the Vision Statement interviews, pop-up studios and workshops that demonstrate the community's desire to take bold measures to strengthen our local agricultural economy. Our updated Vision should reflect that desire.

Thank you for your consideration,
Diana Sheridan

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