

Adam Zack

From: Jan Alderton <janetmalderton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 12:00 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Vision Statement Comment

March 15, 2018

Dear Planning Commissioners & County Staff,

Thank-you for working to update our Comp Plan Vision.

Since our last Comp Plan, awareness of major declines in the Southern Resident Killer Whale population and their prime food, Chinook salmon, have become apparent to both scientists and the public. The Southern Resident Killer Whale is central to our county's logo. The opportunity to see orca whales brings tourists to our islands. Citizen concern has spurred our elected officials to engage in the issue.

Most of the vision statement focuses on our islands as separate from adjoining counties and from Canada. Helping the Southern Resident Killer Whales and salmon will require a regional effort. Councilor Rick Hughes recently attended a conference in British Columbia that focused on the plight of the Southern Resident Killer Whales. Concern among residents of San Juan County is growing. Please consider adding the following statement to our vision.

Thank-you,
Janet Alderton

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Deer Harbor, WA 98243
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Page 4, Line 24:

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Proposed new paragraph:

As citizens of an island archipelago, San Juan County residents are profoundly connected to the marine environment. Iconic species such as the Southern Resident Killer Whales and salmon connect us to the Salish Sea region. We strive to protect the wild nature of our shorelines that provide food and shelter for young salmon. We understand that our island shorelines are an essential part of a complex regional ecosystem that sustains our beloved Southern Resident Killer Whales. We have committed ourselves to work with citizens in neighboring counties and in British Columbia to reverse the decline of endangered salmon and killer whales.