

Adam Zack

From: Lauren Storm <laurenkstorm@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 7, 2018 10:58 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: San Juan County Vision Statement

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

I am currently writing a business plan for an agricultural operation on San Juan Island. I am starting this business here because Washington State in general has a friendlier regulatory climate for agriculture than many other states, and on San Juan Island in particular because of its rural character. I feel including agriculture in the County Vision Statement is essential to the survival of small-scale commercial agriculture on the islands.

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

Specifically, I request that the Planning Commission:

- 1). Adopt Staff Report OPTION C: --Add a standalone Agriculture section to the Vision1
- 2). ADD the following language proposed by the Agriculture Resource Committee2 to this new Agriculture section

AGRICULTURE

The San Juan Islands have a rich agricultural heritage that remains culturally and economically significant. We invest resources to ensure that agricultural lands are preserved and to maintain and enhance agricultural viability. We encourage regenerative practices and recognize the integral role that agriculture plays in the stewardship of our soils and

water resources. Agricultural activities are essential to the health and well-being of our community, contributing to the social, economic and environmental fabric of our islands.

References:

1. Staff OPTION C: Recommendation can be found on page 3 of SJC Department of Community Development Staff Report dated March 29, 2018 found here:

<https://www.sanjuanico.com/DocumentCenter/View/14761>

2. Agricultural Resource Committee recommended addition to the Vision Statement found here:

<https://www.sanjuanico.com/DocumentCenter/View/14627>

Why this is important:

Existing references to agriculture are scattered between several of the Vision Statement elements, but there is no statement that accurately reflects the importance of agriculture to our community.

Sincerely,

Lauren Storm

laurenkstorm@gmail.com