

January 28, 2020 ①

S.J.C. DEPARTMENT OF

FEB 03 2020

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Housing Needs Assessment

from Marlia Starwater Dunsmuir
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Comments

RE: Housing Element and
HNA

5.7 HOUSING GOALS and POLICIES

page 14 - Line 26

★ SEE PAGE ③ for LINES 19, 24 on pg. 14

Modify policies - zoning, ~~per~~ permit
requirements, costs, etc.

pg. 14 - Lines 28 + 29 ... ^{add}
on properties where food is grown, commercial agriculture
is conducted, and those properties in agricultural
open space tax programs.

Line 30 - ADD

6. Severely monitor vacation
rentals. Encourage and/or MANDATE year-round rentals.
Reduce ^{AND LIMIT} number of rentals available
only on a SHORT-TERM BASIS ~ overnight to one or two months.
IF/When community members ^{REQUEST} request

MORATORIUM on PERMITS issued, these county citizens
should be honored, especially those affected by
negativity in their neighborhoods - Noise level, disturbance
by ^{large} numbers of people, garbage, litter, pets, ETC. + parking
availability, for examples -

nursing facilities AND MAKE CHANGES/modifications as needed (^{permits} zoning, etc.) to enable "housing" (specialised or not) to be built or have ^{existing} "STRUCTURES safely

modified. Owner/builder should be ~~expanded in~~ ^{AND EXPERIMENTAL} homes allowed
instituted (again) in order to expand the housing - safe and
affordable - available in the county. (Permit staff may need
to be expanded.)

Another population that needs special care. Some come just in the

Summer months. Housing is desperately needed for these food service staff, carpenters, etc., who KEEP the economy of the islands (country) healthy.

Services for those who are homeless (should be)

funded by, or encouraged by, the county in coordination with each island's needs. Several sources to help define those needs are: churches, social service agencies (or similar services) LOCAL Resource Centers ~~Island~~ ~~Community Foundation~~ ~~similar organizations~~ ~~non-profits~~. ~~plan~~ ~~For~~ well-being, the presently homeless need access to showers, laundry facilities, etc.

And free transportation when hitch-hiking is not

feasible. The existing services by SENIOR CENTERS Door to door

A dirty person - body +/or clothing - is NOT apt to get a job to earn some money to eat, etc. (and eventually pay rent!)

also For those who have important belongings - SAFE,
accessible STORAGE is needed. (Tools have been stolen, reducing
one's ability to work.)

Page 14 line 19 ADD  SHOULD BE ON PAGE ONE

Employees such as food service workers and Caregivers are needed on Orcas Island, in particular, because in 2020 more than half of the population is 60 (or 65?) or older. Especially if ELDERLY ~~people~~ are to remain in their present environment, they may need care to keep their home clean and safe, to take care of their hygienic needs, etc. (a.d.l. ~ activities of daily living is "professional" term)

Page 14 line 24

... Support development of realistic specific standards ...

Line 26

Modify, as necessary, ~~conditions~~ guidelines for housing farm/garden help on the property where they are working.

This is touched on in LINE 24. Maybe that's sufficient.

PAGE 15 line 4 ~ Appoint staff or form a working committee to identify renters or home owners, especially among the elderly who may have lost a spouse, had children move out, etc. So there is space in their home for another person or persons. [BIG HOUSE, one person...]

Enable rental of a bedroom, shared bath and kitchen facilities, and sometimes "living room" space.

Space in these homes could reduce homelessness and be a source of physical help for the elderly "owner" if BARTER were decided upon instead of RENT. →

Housing Element and HNA -

(4)

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Page 15 Line 8 - Goal 3.

Line 9 POLICIES

Lines 10-22 of various importance - but "YES!"
=

~~Personal notes -~~

on pg. 15 - the
please edit - but include Line 22 -

Don't forget "Substandard" units probably
provide a significant number of rentals (etc.)
which are preventing homelessness.

I'm sure there are standards that the
County wishes to uphold, but there is an amount of
REALISM and view of the (Bigger) BIGGER PICTURE.
(what may be called)

Hopefully ~~if~~ "reducing the number of substandard
units" just means upgrading them (+ not ~~charging~~ CHARGING the owner
+ ~~the~~ unless they request improvements.) then it could
+ for the renter

be win-win. Otherwise the county may be
adding to the homeless population by removing SUBSTANDARD
residences from the few resources for NON-HOME-
OWNERS.

January 29, 2020

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After finally writing some of the improvements I would like to see in our "Comp plan" and San Juan County's "behavior", I have some comments that don't belong in HOUSING ELEMENT and HNA.

The 1st is - Sophia CASSAM has been VERY helpful, polite, kind, responsive, ETC. to me! I hope she is being treated with the respect and high regard I have for her work! Also any perks that are available I believe should go her way.

The 2ND.

On Haven Rd. in Eastsound (98245) there is a monstrosity of several (7, I believe) buildings. They are 3 stories high. They are expensive. They have a sidewalk (probably the county was keeping to have one of its goals fulfilled), ~~I believe the sidewalk was~~

It seems any earth-shaking (maybe a QUAKE isn't necessary) will bring pounds of rock from the side of the road (EAST, I believe) down to "cover" the walkway.

As a retired caregiver I was horrified at what I remember as the explanation for the 3 stories. (Probably the builder got "bonus points" (reduced costs?) for SAYING that one of the 3 floors was housing for a CARE GIVER.) If it were the TOP floor, good.

I heard the owners used the TOP two floors as their living space, which is TOTALLY ridiculous if they are elderly + need help + may have physical issues which ~~limit~~ ^{limit} their mobility.

I have other things to say about this deal... but the builder seems to have LOTS of experience making money from property which is not being used in the

Sincerely, Marlina Starwater-Duvsore
of Orcas Island, at least, most helpful ways for the population of