



SAN JUAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT


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MEMO

REPORT DATE: February 16, 2021

TO: San Juan County Council

CC: Mike Thomas, County Manager
Erika Shook, AICP, DCD Director

FROM: Adam Zack, Planner III 

SUBJECT: 2036 Comprehensive Plan Update
Section A. Introduction
Vision Statement

BRIEFING: February 22, 2021

ATTACHMENT: A. December 18, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
B. Resolution 27-2018
C. Public Comments on the Vision Statement received between August 2020 and January 28, 2021

Purpose

To discuss and get County Council direction on the Comprehensive Plan Vision in response to a Planning Commission request for direction.

Public Comments

Please send all public comments to compplancomments@sanjuanco.com. Do not copy the County Council, Planning Commission members, or County Staff. Written public comments received by February 19, 2021, will be provided to the County Council. Comments should refer to the issue related to the comment. Please focus public comments on the issues and options contemplated in this report.

Background and Planning Commission Request for Direction

The Vision statement is established in the Comprehensive Plan (*Plan*) Introduction. It provides a high-level picture of where the community wants the *Plan* to guide the County through the planning period. In general terms it describes what the realization of the *Plan* ought to look like. The San Juan County Vision is unique in that it is divided into topic-specific sections that describe the community's vision for individual subjects. The length of the San Juan County Vision is another distinctive feature of the vision. While many comprehensive plans dedicate a few sentences to the vision, San Juan County has dedicated over two pages to describing where the *Plan* ought to guide the County through 2036. The current vision is included with Resolution 27-2018 in Attachment B.

The vision was initially adopted with the County's Growth Management Act (GMA) Comprehensive Plan in 1998. It was the product of an extensive public process that spanned months and included citizen advisory committees and numerous comments. Due to the extensive public process, the vision appears to be a rare point of consensus in the initial adoption of the *Plan*. The strength of the originally adopted vision was apparent nearly 20 years later, when the County began considering possible amendments to the Vision. An update to the vision was ultimately adopted in 2018 by Resolution 27-2018 (Attachment B). The 2018 update process is summarized below.

In August 2020, a citizens group called *Community Rights San Juan islands* (CRSJI) requested the County again review the vision, "in light of the impacts of Covid-19 and what has been revealed in the past 5 months (Attachment C)." CRSJI submitted a letter with proposed amendments to the vision in an email dated September 17, 2020 (Attachment C). The request to open the vision for further amendment was made to the Planning Commission at their meetings between August and December 2020. At their meeting on December 18, 2020, the Planning Commission made the following motion requesting direction in response to comments:

"given the communication from members of the public about reconsidering the vision statement in light of events like Covid-19, is it the Council's desire that we re-open discussion and possibly change the vision statement (Attachment A)"

The brief history of the extensive 2018 vision update process below will provide additional context for deciding whether to re-open the vision.

Public Outreach, 2018 Vision Update, and Resolution 27-2018

Reexamining the vision was included in the scope of work for the *Plan* update, adopted in 2016 by Resolution 21-2016. The intent was to ensure that vision still reflects where the community wants the *Plan* to take the County. Bearing in mind the history of public participation and the vision, the County hired consultants from Studio Cascades Inc. (SCI) to conduct broad-based public outreach and prepare a report of the findings with recommendations for possible updates.

The first step SCI took was meeting for interviews with twenty-two selected stakeholders. The interviews were roughly half an hour to get stakeholder input on current issues that the community may want to address during the update. This input guided the formulation of the pop-up studios, mini poll, community workshops and online questionnaire that followed.

In September and October 2017, SCI and County staff conducted three pop-up studios and three community workshops to gather input on the vision. The three pop-up studios were held at grocery stores on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez islands. Staff set up a booth and discussed vision-related topics with members of the public as they went about their day. The pop-up studios included a mini poll of open-ended questions to get folks thinking about the issues. The mini poll gathered 212 responses. Staff also provided information about participating in the community workshops that were held in the evenings after the pop-up studios.

The community workshops followed up and expanded on the discussions held at the pop-up studios. The workshops gathered feedback from an estimated 100+ participants. A brief presentation on the *Plan* and vision preceded a group exercise where workshop participants provided feedback on topics related to the vision. The group exercise prompted conversation among the participants and led to useful feedback on areas of focus for updating the vision.

Following the community workshops, staff and SCI conducted an online questionnaire that gathered a quantitative score for opinions on vision related topics. The exercises allowed for open-ended responses for qualitative feedback. The online questionnaire received 560 responses, with respondents taking an average of 27 minutes each to complete the questionnaire.

The responses and results of the public outreach were compiled into a summary report with recommendations for possible updates dated December 2017. This summary report is posted online at: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/13890/San-Juan-County-Vision-2036-Update-Process>

In January 2018, the County Council and Planning Commission were briefed on the results following the public outreach. These briefings familiarized the Council and Planning Commission on the issues that came up and what the community wanted the County to focus on while updating the vision. This laid the groundwork for the consideration of possible changes that followed in the winter and spring of 2018.

After considering the results from the public outreach, the Planning Commission began to consider what updates to the vision might be needed. Between January and May 2018, the Planning Commission and County Council contemplated possible amendments to the vision, arriving at a 'public hearing draft' of amendments. On May 18, 2018, the Planning Commission held a joint public hearing with the County Council regarding the draft of updates to the vision. After receiving written public comments and testimony at the public hearing, the Planning Commission made a recommendation to Council for changes to the vision. The Council then deliberated on the recommendation and made clarifications and revisions on June 11, 2018. The Council concluded their deliberations and adopted an update to the vision with Resolution 27-2018 (Attachment B).

The vision updated by Resolution 27-2018 reflected broad public outreach with input from a wide range of stakeholders. The history of the *Plan* vision as a bottom-up community-drafted document was honored and expanded by the extensive opportunities for the public to provide comments throughout the update process. This was evidenced by public comments submitted in support for the proposed vision (see public comments under the 'vision and introduction' tab at:

<https://www.sanjuanco.com/1306/Comprehensive-Plan-Elements>

Much of the input from this community engagement process informed later work on the *Plan* update, refining the focus for the policy work that followed. The vision updated by Resolution 27-2018 has guided all of the amendments to the *Plan* that have been proposed throughout the *Plan* update. The updated vision has been woven into each of the draft elements to ensure that the proposed changes to the *Plan* will guide the County to a future the community desires.

Re-opening the Vision During the *Plan* Update

The following should be considered if the vision is to be re-opened at this point in time:

- **Broad public outreach is necessary.** Both the drafting of the initial vision in the late 1990's and the process to update the vision in 2018 were successful because of the broad public outreach the County conducted during each process. In order to respect the time and effort the community invested in the original vision and the updated version, any changes to the vision should be accompanied by a broad public participation effort. The 9+ months-long process utilized during the update in 2018 was a significant investment of County resources both monetarily and in staff time. The benefit of this investment is the community has a greater stake in the *Plan* because the vision reflects the diverse views of the participants. If the County Council would like to re-open the vision during the *Plan*

update a similar commitment of effort and resources should be made to ensure that broad-based public engagement is possible.

- **Additional review and revision of the comprehensive plan draft documents would be required.** Re-opening the *Plan* vision would also necessitate additional review of draft *Plan* elements, the topic-specific components of the *Plan* with goals and policies. Many drafts of the *Plan* elements have been prepared based on the assumption that the vision adopted by Resolution 27-2018 was the guiding document for the *Plan* update. Making further changes to the vision will likely necessitate additional work on goals and policies throughout the *Plan* to ensure they are consistent with any changes to the vision. This review would be an additional commitment of County resources to the *Plan* update.
- **The comprehensive plan update would be further delayed.** The additional public outreach and review of the goals and policies for consistency with any changes to the vision would have to be completed prior to adopting the update.



Approved as submitted at the January 15, 2021 PC Meeting.

YH

SAN JUAN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18, 2020 MEETING

The meeting of the San Juan County Planning Commission was called to order by Chair, Camille Uhlir, at 8:42 a.m. in the County Council hearing room, Legislative Building, 55 Second Street, Friday Harbor, and San Juan Island.

Planning Commission

Members Present:

By Microsoft Teams: Camille Uhlir, Tim Blanchard, Michael Pickett (in at 9:28), David Kane, Nick Knoellinger, Steve Rubey, Sheila Gaquin, and Dale Roundy.

Department of Community

Development (DCD) Staff

Present:

Present in person: Erika Shook, Director; and Lynda Guernsey, AS II.
By Microsoft Teams: Adam Zack, Planner III.

Administrative Items

Confirm Agenda – No changes to agenda.

Recognition of Service – Camille Uhlir let the Planning Commission know that this was Tim Blanchard’s last meeting. The Planning Commission thanked him for his service to the commission over the years.

Minutes of November 20, 2020

Moved by Tim Blanchard, seconded by Camille Uhlir, to approve the November 20, 2020 minutes as corrected. The corrections were to correct the spelling of Sheila Gaquin’s name, add Steve Rubey to the motions, add Nick Knoellinger to the attending list and motions, and add a clarification motion for page 3, Item 5. Moved by Dale Roundy, seconded by Sheila Gaquin, with the clarification of the Planning Commission’s intent regarding point number 5 in the motion regarding Vacation Rentals (page 3 of the minutes) that: Whatever cap or caps are ultimately adopted should not be annual limits on increases in the number of VR permits, but should be based on a fixed number of permits beyond which no additional permits shall be approved in the areas subject to the cap(s). Tim Blanchard – yes, David Kane – yes, Nick Knoellinger-yes, Sheila Gaquin – yes, Dale Roundy – yes, Steve Rubey – yes, and Camille Uhlir – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

DCD Update – Erika Shook, Director

1. The purpose of this meeting is training on Microsoft Teams for Planning Commissioners, the public, and staff.

Public Access Time – The following spoke:

Brent Lyles, Executive Director for Friends of the San Juans

Microsoft Teams Set Up and Training for the Planning Commission and Public.

Adam Zack gave a slide presentation on the use of Microsoft Teams, from installation to meeting procedures.

Return to Admin Items

Return to Public Access Time for someone that had tried but couldn't get in

Julienne Battalia, Community Rights San Juan Islands

Return to Microsoft Teams Set Up and Training for the Planning Commission and Public.

Adam Zack concluded his presentation and responded to questions and comments from the Planning Commission.

Comprehensive Plan Update Planning Commission Schedule Through April 2021 – Adam Zack, Planner III

Adam Zack summarized his memo of December 3, 2020 regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update schedule for the Planning Commission through April 2021. It was emphasized that this was a guideline, that there will likely be changes along the way.

There was discussion by the Planning Commission about the vision statement as members of the public had brought up that there should be changes to it considering the Covid-19 pandemic. It was agreed that the County Council would need to be the ones to reopen the vision statement for discussion or change as they had already recommended adoption of the vision statement as it stands now.

Moved by Michael Pickett, seconded by Dale Roundy, that given the communication from members of the public about reconsidering the vision statement in light of events like Covid-19, is it the Council's desire that we re-open discussion and possibly change the vision statement. Michael Pickett – yes, Tim Blanchard – yes, David Kane – yes, Nick Knoellinger - yes, Sheila Gaquin – yes, Dale Roundy – yes, Steve Rubey – yes, and Camille Uhlir – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Return to Admin Items

The newest members of the Planning Commission were asked to reintroduce themselves and Steve Smith was acknowledged as the person appointed to take Tim Blanchard's position next month.

Adjournment

Moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed upon to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 a.m. The next meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for Friday, January 15, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in the County Council hearing room, Legislative Building, 55 Second Street, Friday Harbor, San Juan Island.

Respectfully submitted,


Lynda Guernsey

ATTACHMENT B

Resolution No. 27 - 2018
Page 1 of 4^{1/2}

RESOLUTION NO. 27 - 2018

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN AMENDED VISION FOR THE 2018 UPDATE OF
THE SAN JUAN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.**

WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act (GMA) was passed by the State Legislature in April 1990;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners voted to plan under the GMA in November, 1990;

WHEREAS, San Juan County is updating the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan, (the Plan) to extend the planning horizon through 2036;

WHEREAS, the County adopted the Plan's Vision in December 1998;

WHEREAS, nearly twenty years have passed since the Vision was adopted;

WHEREAS, an updated Vision is needed to inform the Plan update, including amendments to the Plan's goals and policies;

WHEREAS, in August 2017, the County hired consulting firms Community Attributes Inc. (CAI) and Studio Cascade Inc. (SCI) to conduct broad public outreach;

WHEREAS, SCI interviewed over twenty "orienteers" from the community in September 2017 to identify specific topics the Vision update should address;

WHEREAS, CAI, SCI and County staff conducted pop-up studios and used a mini-poll on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Islands in October 2017 to ask people about whether the existing Vision would serve the County through the new planning horizon of 2036;

WHEREAS, over 200 responses to a mini-poll were received that provided insight into needed Vision amendments;

WHEREAS, CAI, SCI and County staff conducted community workshops on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Islands in October 2017;

WHEREAS, workshop participants engaged in an exercise to identify specific areas of improvement for the 1998 Vision;

WHEREAS, in November 2017, SCI conducted an online questionnaire that received 560 responses to specific questions about the Vision;

WHEREAS, the data collected by consultants during the autumn of 2017 is summarized in the report, *San Juan County Vision 2036 Update Process*;

WHEREAS, at the January 19, 2018, Planning Commission meeting, public input summarized in this report was considered and Planning Commission directed staff to prepare draft amendments to the Vision;

WHEREAS, the preliminary staff draft amendments composed following the Planning Commission meeting January 19, 2018, were posted online in a staff report dated February 2, 2018 and the public was notified with newsflashes to project subscribers;

WHEREAS, although there was no quorum at the February 16, 2018, Planning Commission meeting, public testimony about the Vision amendments was taken;

WHEREAS, based on public comments received on February 16, 2018, staff updated the draft of the initial staff Vision amendments and attached them to a staff report dated March 1, 2018, that was posted on the project website and the public was notified of the draft in a newsflash to project subscribers;

WHEREAS, at the March 16, 2018, Planning Commission meeting, public testimony and written comments on the March 1st draft were considered, and the Planning Commission proposed further amendments to the Vision;

WHEREAS, at the March 16, 2018, Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission agreed by consensus to further amendments of the preamble, community, basic human needs, education, economy, natural environment, land use, transportation, energy and resources, and governance statements of the Vision;

WHEREAS, at the March 16, 2018, Planning Commission meeting, the Commission agreed by consensus to add statements on housing and climate change to the Vision;

WHEREAS, proposed amendments from the March 16, 2018, Planning Commission meeting were posted to the project website in a staff report dated March 29, 2018 and the public was notified of the availability of the draft in a newsflash to project subscribers;

WHEREAS, the staff report dated March 29, 2018, included all public comments received to date and was transmitted to County Council and Planning Commission;

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2018, staff briefed County Council on the Planning Commission's progress on the Vision;

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2018, the Planning Commission considered written public comments on the March 29, 2018 draft amendments, voted to add a new agriculture statement, and approved a draft of Vision amendments that was recommended to County Council for consideration during a public hearing;

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2018, staff briefed County Council on the Planning Commission's work to date and the Council set a joint Council and Planning Commission public hearing on May 18, 2018;

WHEREAS, the May 18, 2018, joint public hearing was duly advertised in *The Journal of the San Juan Islands* and the *Islands Sounder* on May 2, 2018 and additional newsflashes were used to announce the availability of the public hearing draft and request comment from project subscribers;

WHEREAS, the County Council and Planning Commission held a joint public hearing, receiving written comments and public testimony on May 18, 2018;

WHEREAS, the joint public hearing was closed by the County Council, reserving the right to re-open later;

WHEREAS, following the joint public hearing, the Planning Commission's regularly scheduled May 18, 2018 meeting commenced and they deliberated on the draft amendments to the Vision;

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2018, Planning Commission considered public comments and testimony and agreed by consensus to amend the preamble, governance, basic human needs, housing, education, natural environment, energy and resources, climate change, economy, and transportation statements of the Vision;

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2018, Planning Commission recommended to County Council their final proposal to amend the Vision;

WHEREAS, the County Council deliberated on the Planning Commission's recommended amendments on June 11, 2018, made clarifications and revisions to highlight its aspirational intent and deleted portions that were determined to be too specific for the Vision but should be considered during the update of the Plan's goals and policies; and

WHEREAS, County Council adopted a revised order of the Vision statements as shown in Attachment A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of San Juan County, state of Washington, as follows:

1. That the Vision found at San Juan County Comprehensive Plan, Section A, page 2, be amended as shown in Attachment A for the Plan update.
2. That staff provide follow-through on the following topics removed from the Planning Commission's recommended amendments to help guide the development of goals and policies during the Plan's update:
 - a. Quantifying the drinking water supply;
 - b. Addressing the needs of mental health, elder, and child-care;

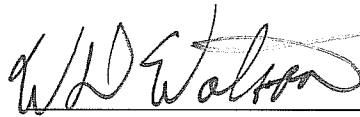
- c. Making homes resource efficient;
- d. Proactively adopt conservation measures;
- e. Protecting shorelines and critical areas;
- f. Addressing proactively the cause and effects of climate change;
- g. Encouraging regenerative forestry and agricultural practices; and
- h. Working toward carbon neutrality.

ADOPTED this 12th day of June 2018.

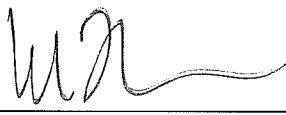
ATTEST: Clerk of the Council

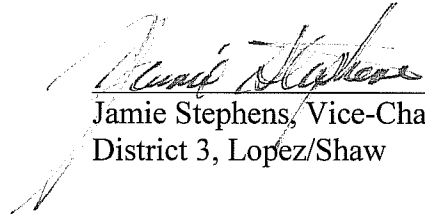
**COUNTY COUNCIL
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Ingrid Gabriel, Clerk 6.15.2018
Date

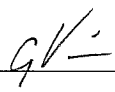

Bill Watson, Chair
District 1, San Juan

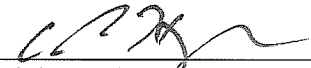
REVIEWED BY COUNTY MANAGER


Michael J. Thomas 6/18/18
Date


Jamie Stephens, Vice-Chair
District 3, Lopez/Shaw

RANDALL K. GAYLORD
APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY

By: 
Date 6/12/2018


Rick Hughes, Member
District 2, Orcas/Waldron

ATTACHMENTS

A. County Council Vision Amendments

ATTACHMENT A: COUNTY COUNCIL VISION AMENDMENTS
June 11, 2018

1 PREAMBLE

2 **WE THE PEOPLE**, citizens of San Juan County, value our healthy natural environment, vibrant and diverse
3 community, self-sufficiency, interdependence, privacy, personal freedom, independence, and
4 stewardship of our common resources ~~recognize that these rural islands are an extraordinary treasure~~
5 ~~of natural beauty and abundance, and that independence, privacy and personal freedom are values~~
6 ~~prized by islanders. These rural islands are an extraordinary treasure: as a community~~ Being a diverse
7 ~~people bound together by these shared values, we declare our commitment to work towards this vision~~
8 ~~of the San Juan Islands in 2020 A.D.~~

9 **COMMUNITY** We envision a community that is primarily rural, made up of islands of varying character,
10 each with its own unique qualities. The islands are places of peace and mutual tolerance, where ~~citizens~~
11 people of differing backgrounds and beliefs respect each other's dignity, privacy, and freedoms. We
12 communicate effectively and openly and work together toward goals identified as being for the common
13 good. We foster a sense of neighborliness, of self-sufficiency, and community pride that has long been a
14 part of our island character.

15 **GOVERNANCE** We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are equally represented by elected officials
16 who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open manner ~~which~~
17 that recognizes the independent, self-reliant nature of its people ~~citizens~~. Our elected officials and
18 government institutions lead, communicate and collaborate with regional partners in areas of mutual
19 interest. Our government institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate
20 services where practical, manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a
21 timely manner.

22 **BASIC HUMAN NEEDS** Our islands are places where ~~all citizens~~ people are safe ~~can safely walk or play, day~~
23 ~~and~~ ~~or~~ night. The drinking water supply is clean, ~~and~~ adequate, and conserved as a vital resource. Health
24 care and help in time of need are accessible and affordable. Making a life here is not limited by lack of
25 access to basic human needs. ~~The supply of affordable housing is adequate to meet the needs of our~~
26 ~~diverse population.~~

27 **HOUSING** Adequate, safe, affordable and stable housing helps our community thrive. There are diverse
28 housing types and we use innovative strategies to meet the various housing needs of our community.

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

33 **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT** Our islands and marine waters have exceptional natural beauty and healthy,
34 diverse ecosystems that are surrounded by pollution-free marine waters. The air is fresh and clean, the
35 water quality is excellent, and the soil is uncontaminated. As careful stewards of these islands and waters,
36 we conserve resources, preserve open space, and take appropriate action to assure healthy land and
37 marine environments. We recognize the integral role that forests play in the stewardship of our air, soils
38 and water resources. The natural environment is central to the ecological health, quality of life, and the
39 economy in the islands. Native plants, ~~and~~ animals, ~~and~~ marine life of the islands thrive, and are identified,
40 appreciated and conserved.

ATTACHMENT A: COUNTY COUNCIL VISION AMENDMENTS

June 11, 2018

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

6 **HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION** Our community is enriched by a strong sense of identity,
7 tradition, legacy, and continuity, where past and present freely mingle. We recognize the contributions to
8 our rural and maritime heritage made by indigenous peoples, explorers, and island pioneers, and We
9 encourage the preservation of that our heritage. ~~We encourage preservation of historic sites, structures,~~
10 and traditions for the enjoyment of all.

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

Adam Zack

From: Liz Lafferty <lizzilaff@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:29 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Comp Plan Comments
Attachments: Comp Plan Comments .pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners,

With respect for the on-going work on the Comprehensive Plan, our group, Community Rights San Juan Islands, is reviewing the vision statement in light of the impacts of Covid-19 and what has been revealed in the past 5 months. Attached is a brief letter describing our motivations. We will be submitting our proposed changes in September. We look forward to working with you.

Liz Lafferty
(360) 298-2412

In a World Where You Can Be Anything. . . Be Kind!!

"I will rally to the power of love, demonstrate for the strength of kindness, stand for the joy of community, and speak only in the language of unity." My Moving Forward Mantra, LizziLaff



To: SJC Planning Commissioners and Council Members
From: Community Rights San Juan Islands
Date: August 18, 2020
Subject: Comp Plan Comments

Submitted via email: compplancomments@sanjuanco.com

We have great respect and appreciation for all the years of effort that individuals and groups have already put into drafting a thoughtful Comprehensive Plan. But that draft was written before the pandemic altered our lives. Things are different now. Before the pandemic, one set of truths informed and guided us. We could not know what we did not know. Now, we understand that many of our most foundational beliefs miss the mark, harm large numbers of people, and imperil species. As this pandemic continues to upend everything, we must rethink the guiding language of our vision statement. We believe the language of the Comp Plan must reflect the lessons of this time.

In the enforced slow-down of Covid-19, the privilege of being able to call this place ‘home’ has never been more clear. We have experienced the shared vulnerability of our food supply, medical care, and our economic fragility. We have come to understand what we call ‘rural character’ is more than a mere aesthetic value, it is a lived relationship. We now know the importance of our forests for all they provide beyond the value of timber taken, as they are protectors of vital water cycles and home to many, many species. The interrelationship of orca, salmon and eel grass has become visible. If we care deeply about the orca, we must care deeply about eelgrass and the communities of forage fish that live there.

Now is the time to be courageous, to be bold. Let us ask “What could possibly go right, not wrong, but what can go right?” What must go right to carry us forward to 2036. With respect and civility we must take what we are learning and apply it to the Comprehensive Plan. Our future depends on our ability to learn from history, adapt to the present, and to boldly plan for what lies ahead. For our grandchildren and theirs, let us envision and plan for what can and must go right.

A growing number of community groups are working on changes we believe must be included in the Vision statement. In September we will send you a draft of our proposed changes and rationale for suggesting them. In the meantime, we welcome your questions and look forward to working together.

Respectfully,
Chom Greacen, Julienne Battalia, Kai Sanburn, Liz Lafferty

Adam Zack

From: Ande Finley <andefinley@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 3:42 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Cc: Ande Finley; Bob Gerfy; Chom Greacen; Henning Sehmsdorf; Kim Foley; Lafferty, Liz; Moore Michael; Ron Metcalf; Ryan Palmateer; Scott Finley
Subject: Comp Plan Comments from Transition Lopez Island

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners:

The mission of our group, Transition Lopez Island, is to support the ongoing development of a resilient, regenerative community for our island. To that end, we have submitted previous comments with suggestions of specific language for the 2036 Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement.

However, now the Covid-19 Pandemic requires that we step back and rethink many long-held beliefs. Since this update of the Comprehensive Plan for our county must take us to 2036, it must also reflect the new information that moving through these challenging times has brought to light.

Community Rights San Juan Islands (CRSJI) has spearheaded a review of the guiding language of the Vision Statement. Transition Lopez Island supports their efforts and will be working alongside CRSJI as they draft changes and rationale for these proposed suggestions.

With respect and gratitude for all your thoughtful efforts so far,
Ande Finley
for the Transition Lopez Island Steering Committee

Adam Zack

From: Kai Sanburn <kaisanburn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Comp Plan Update; Dale Roundy; Steven Rubey; David Kane; tim.planningcomm@gmail.com; cuhlir360@gmail.com; mike@mikepickett.com
Subject: CP Vision Statement Comments, CRSJI, 9/17/20
Attachments: Letter attachment.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



September 17, 2020

Hello Planning Commissioners,

We started this conversation in August referencing changes brought to light by the pandemic. In a follow-up email, we acknowledged civil tensions here in our community. Today, we're a week into the smokey haze of devastating fires burning up and down the West Coast and only the most committed climate deniers fail to recognize the signals these fires are sending.

These are rapidly changing times that call on us to advance a bold vision to guide planning decisions and processes into the future that is unfolding before us.

Please consider a sample of the language we propose for the vision statement and to be reflected in the Comprehensive Plan (attached below). The essence of these changes expresses our understanding that we are dependent on the wellbeing of the natural world and, as such, are responsible to consider and defend the health and wellbeing of that world in all decisions we make.

Thank you for your thoughtful dedication to this work,

Kai Sanburn

Chom Greacen
Liz Lafferty
Julienne Battalia

Community Rights San Juan Islands

Submitted by Community Rights San Juan Islands, September 17, 2020

Rationale and proposed edits to the Vision Statement of the Comprehensive Plan

Rationale:

Covid-19's enforced pause has revealed what we value and exposed our vulnerabilities. We have witnessed our interdependence, as our communities have rallied to provide support where it is needed. We have understood, perhaps more than ever, the good fortune of living in this place that nurtures us so well. We now recognize that we have obligations in this reciprocal relationship.

The Comprehensive Plan and its Vision Statement must reflect what we now know:

- Natural systems are in peril. The oceans and our Salish Sea are at risk. And so are we.*
- We recognize that the health of our land and waters are essential to our wellbeing and security. If nature does not thrive, our communities suffer.*
- We know the relentless demands for growth are only going to accelerate and, thus, understand nature must be recognized as a critical stakeholder and have a seat at the table in all we do.*
- The health and wellbeing of our environment and our interdependence on each other and the natural world underlies and supports all else now and into the future.*

Proposed revision to the Vision Statement by CRSJI

WE THE PEOPLE, citizens/residents of San Juan County, at home in the Salish Sea, understand and value that our healthy community wellbeing is dependent upon the health of our beautiful and bountiful natural environment, vibrant and diverse community,. We acknowledge and respect the obligations we have to each other and to the land and sea. We understand that our freedom, independence, and desire for self-sufficiency, is fundamentally tied to our interdependence, privacy, personal freedom, independence, and stewardship of our common resources. These rural islands are an extraordinary treasure: as a community bound together by these shared values, we declare our commitment to work towards this and our respect for each other and for nature. This is the vision of the San Juan Islands we are committed to working toward.

COMMUNITY: We envision a community that is primarily rural, true to the land and sea it thrives within, made up of islands ~~of varying character,~~ each with its own unique qualities. ~~The islands are places of peace and mutual tolerance, where people of differing backgrounds and beliefs respect each other's~~We understand that our dignity, privacy, and freedoms. ~~We communicate effectively and openly and work together toward goals identified as being for~~ arise out of tolerance for diversity and a strongly held value of mutual respect. The uniqueness of each island contributes to our ability to

work together for the common good. We foster a sense of community, honor the dignity and peace of all, and our lives reflect the generosity of neighborliness, the land and sea on which we depend. We respect the rights of self-sufficiency, and community pride that has long been a part of nature's communities to survive and thrive, just as we respect the rights of our island character. Each other to survive and thrive.

BASIC HUMAN NEEDS: Our islands are places where people, county, surrounded by the living waters of the Salish Sea, is a place where all beings are safe, day and night. The drinking air is healthy and the water supply is clean, adequate, and conserved as a vital resource. Health care and help in time of need are accessible and affordable. Making a life here is not limited by lack of access to basic human needs. Local food is abundant and affordable. We understand that our ability to meet our basic needs, now and in the future, is dependent upon ecosystems that are robust and healthy.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: Our islands and marine waters the Salish Sea have exceptional natural beauty and healthy, diverse ecosystems that are pollution-free. The air is fresh and clean, the water quality is excellent, and the soil is uncontaminated. As careful stewards of these islands and waters, we conserve resources, preserve open space, and take appropriate action to assure healthy land and marine environments. We recognize the integral role that forests play in the stewardship of our air, soils and water resources. The natural environment is central to the ecological health, quality of life, and the economy in the islands. Native We assure that native plants, animals, and marine life of the islands are able to thrive, survive and are identified, appreciated and conserved regenerate their vital life cycles.

LAND USE: Neighborhoods, hamlets, villages, towns, and other activity centers are clearly defined to conserve the integrity of rural, agricultural, forest, mineral resource lands, and critical areas. These areas define The health of these lands defines our sense of place, honors our heritage, supports our wellbeing, and sense of place: providing provides for commerce and community activities without losing their small scale and attractive island ambiance. The unique character of our shorelines is protected by encouraging our commitment to uses that maintain or enhance the health of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use strategies, our citizens residents and institutions balance and protect the rights of private property rights, the public rights, and our natural environment, now and into the future.

Adam Zack

From: Kat Steele <kat.steele@orcasong.farm>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 7:22 PM
To: Christine Minney
Cc: Comp Plan Update
Subject: OrcaSong Institute Letter of Support to Christine Minney for Rights of the Salish Sea Initiative
Attachments: Council Member Letter of Support for Rights of Salish Sea - CMinney.pdf

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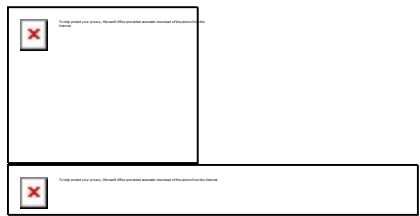
Dear Council Member Christine,

The OrcaSong Institute is a non-profit educational organization located on Orcas Island that cultivates leadership in eco-social change movements. We offer programs and support projects that proactively address the climate crisis and promote the emerging Next Economy.

Congratulations on your election to County Council! I'm excited to meet you and work together for positive change. For now we are glad to be able to offer our voice of support to the Rights of the Salish Sea Initiative. Please find our letter of support attached.

Sincerely,
Kat Steele

--



Kat Steele
Director OrcaSong Institute

510.459.6784

280 Dolphin Bay Road
Eastsound, WA 98245

OrcaSong: [Farm](#) | [Institute](#) |

January 15, 2021

San Juan County Council
55 Second Street,
Friday Harbor, WA, 98250

To Council Member Christine Minney,

We are writing to express our support for the work of Community Rights San Juan Islands, and their pursuit in rewriting the vision statement in the SJC Comprehensive Plan. The organization has shown dedication in working with the San Juan County Council to encourage important changes to the Comprehensive Plan through promoting the Rights of the Salish Sea Initiative. Grown out of the global Rights of Nature movement, the Rights of the Salish Sea Initiative rightly seeks to impart the significance of our communal relationship to our local natural environment by having this reflected within the guiding language used in our local community policy.

OrcaSong Institute understands the ethical importance and ecological necessity the Rights of Nature movement fosters, and enthusiastically supports the Rights of the Salish Sea Initiative happening here in the San Juans. This important shift away from treating nature merely as property, and instead seeing our natural environment an integral part of ourselves is needed more now than ever. This past year has demonstrated innumerable inflictions across the planet due to economic and environmental vulnerabilities, and although we are very fortunate to call the Islands home, we are not immune from such afflictions.

It is in the heart of our organization's mission to support the development of innovative approaches that foster protections for our local environment and community. Standing aside Community Rights San Juan Islands we agree that going forward post-COVID we need to consider the foundations we're laying as a community with the hopes of thriving in this changing world. We ask that you too will consider the value in re-envisioning our future here, and move forward to open up the Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement to be rewritten. Further, we want to extend gratitude for all of your work and community support. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Kat Steele
Director, Orcasong Institute

Adam Zack

From: Kat Steele <kat.steele@orcasong.farm>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 7:27 PM
To: Cindy Wolf
Cc: Comp Plan Update
Subject: OrcaSong Institute Letter of Support to Cindy Wolf for Rights of the Salish Sea Initiative
Inbox
Attachments: Council Member Letter of Support for Rights of Salish Sea - CWolf.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Member Cindy,

The OrcaSong Institute is a non-profit educational organization located on Orcas Island that cultivates leadership in eco-social change movements. We offer programs and support projects that proactively address the climate crisis and promote the emerging Next Economy.

Congratulations on your election to County Council! I'm excited to get to work together for positive change. For now we are glad to be able to offer our voice of support to the Rights of the Salish Sea Initiative. Please find our letter of support attached.

Sincerely,
Kat Steele

--



Kat Steele
Director OrcaSong Institute

510.459.6784

280 Dolphin Bay Road
Eastsound, WA 98245

OrcaSong: [Farm](#) | [Institute](#)

January 15, 2021

San Juan County Council
55 Second Street,
Friday Harbor, WA, 98250

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Sincerely,



Kat Steele
Director, Orcasong Institute

Adam Zack

From: Kat Steele <kat.steele@orcasong.farm>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 7:32 PM
To: Jamie Stephens
Cc: Comp Plan Update
Subject: OrcaSong Institute Letter of Support to Jamie Stephens for Rights of the Salish Sea Initiative
Attachments: Council Member Letter of Support for Rights of Salish Sea - JStephens.pdf

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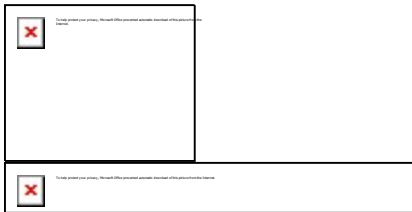
Dear Council Member Jamie,

The OrcaSong Institute is a non-profit educational organization located on Orcas Island that cultivates leadership in eco-social change movements. We offer programs and support projects that proactively address the climate crisis and promote the emerging Next Economy.

I'm excited to get to work together for positive change. For now we are glad to be able to offer our voice of support to the Rights of the Salish Sea Initiative. Please find our letter of support attached.

Sincerely,
Kat Steele

--



Kat Steele
Director OrcaSong Institute

510.459.6784

280 Dolphin Bay Road
Eastsound, WA 98245

OrcaSong: [Farm](#) | [Institute](#)

Attachments ar

January 15, 2021

San Juan County Council
55 Second Street,
Friday Harbor, WA, 98250

To Council Member Jamie Stephens,

We are writing to express our support for the work of Community Rights San Juan Islands, and their pursuit in rewriting the vision statement in the SJC Comprehensive Plan. The organization has shown dedication in working with the San Juan County Council to encourage important changes to the Comprehensive Plan through promoting the Rights of the Salish Sea Initiative. Grown out of the global Rights of Nature movement, the Rights of the Salish Sea Initiative rightly seeks to impart the significance of our communal relationship to our local natural environment by having this reflected within the guiding language used in our local community policy.

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Sincerely,



Kat Steele
Director, Orcasong Institute

Adam Zack

From: R. Brent Lyles <brent@sanjuans.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Comments on reopening the Vision Statement
Attachments: Reopening the Vision Statement - Comments from Friends of the San Juans - 26jan2021.pdf

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Dear San Juan County CD staff, Planning Commissioners, and members of the County Council,

Please find attached a comment letter supporting the Planning Commission's request to reopen the Vision Statement for additional public comment and consideration.

Thanks so much for considering these comments, and please feel free to call me if this file fails to transmit faithfully.

Respectfully,

Brent

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R. Brent Lyles (he/him) | **Executive Director** | **Friends of the San Juans**
PO Box 1344 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250 | Direct: 360-378-2324, Cell: 512-773-9789
www.sanjuans.org | [donate](#) | [facebook](#) | [e-news](#)



Friends *of the* San Juans

360.378.2319
www.sanjuans.org

P.O. Box 1344
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

To: San Juan County Community Development Staff, Planning Commissioners, and Council Members
From: R. Brent Lyles, Executive Director
Date: 26 January 2021
Subject: Comments on the Planning Commission's request to reopen the Vision Statement for additional public comment and consideration.

Submitted via email to compplancomments@sanjuanco.com

In the spirit of encouraging broad community participation in the Comprehensive Plan update process, Friends of the San Juans supports the Planning Commission's unanimous request to re-open discussion and possibly change the Vision Statement.

Thank you for considering these comments, and if you have any questions about them, please feel free to contact me via email at brent@sanjuans.org.