

Sophia Cassam

From: R. Brent Lyles <brent@sanjuans.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 8:01 AM
To: Comp Plan Update; David Williams; Sophia Cassam
Cc: James McCubbin
Subject: Climate section of Land Use Element
Attachments: Climate goals for Land Use - Comments from Friends of the San Juans - 15mar2021.pdf

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Hello Planning Commissioners,

At your meeting on March 19, 2021, just over a year ago, Sophia Cassam presented the well-researched Climate Change Goals and Policies that DCD staff were proposing for the Land Use Element of the Comp Plan Update. **At that time, your decision was to revisit those goals and policies at a later date, to discuss them in greater detail after getting community input.** You addressed the topic again, in part, on October 8, 2021. However, you did not address the language proposed for Section 2.2.O of the Land Use and Rural Element at that meeting, and the planned Town Hall on climate issues got cancelled. So, the Planning Commission has never addressed the climate language in this section - **- this is a "loose end" that never got discussed. Now is the time!**

Preparing for the devastating, local impacts of climate change is incredibly important to the future of our community, so please examine this language and consider public input before you approve a final hearing draft of the Land Use Element.

I am resubmitting Friends of the San Juans' comments on those goals and policies so that you'll have them handy when this loose end gets discussed. **Our comments are minimal and easy to incorporate, and they'll make the language in this section of the Comp Plan much more effective for our County.** Ms. Cassam has created a strong first draft, and these goals and policies are especially important, so I appreciated it when the Planning Commissioners stated more than a year ago that you wanted to get input on these from the community and from climate-focused organizations like Friends of the San Juans. If I can answer any questions about our input on these, please let me know.

If someone could please reply to this email, to let me know it was received and distributed to the Planning Commission, I'd appreciate it very much. Thanks.

Respectfully,

Brent

P.S. I apologize for the short notice of this email to you -- since the agenda for this Friday's meeting was published less than a week ahead of time, we have had very little time to respond.

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To: San Juan County Council, Planning Commissioners, and staff
From: R. Brent Lyles, Executive Director
Date: 15 March 2021
Subject: Comments on proposed Climate Change Goals and Policies for Element 2, Land Use and Rural

Submitted via email to complancomments@sanjuanco.com and council@sanjuanco.com

Dear San Juan County Council, Planning Commissioners, and staff,

I am writing today with comments on the proposed climate-related Goals and Policies for Element 2, Land Use and Rural. First, I would like to commend staff on the excellent job of creating this draft; it is thoughtful and inspiring.

Given the community's interest in the County taking strong action on climate, I hope that the following suggestions will be helpful:

1. Goal 1, Policy 1 (page 2, line 8): The County need not reinvent the wheel. Edit the policy so that it reads as follows:
*Commit resources for a climate change impact study, **relying both on existing resources and reports and on new research as needed**, that assesses...*
2. Goal 1, Policy 1 (page 2, line 8): The economic impacts of climate change can also be included here. Add "and land-dependent industries" so that it reads as follows:
*...that assesses lands **and land-dependent industries** susceptible to climate impacts...*
3. Goal 1, Policy 1a (page 2, line 11): Add "existing and future" so that it reads as follows:
*Make **existing and future** development in these areas more resilient;*
4. Goal 1, Policy 1d (page 2, line 17): Adaptation is just as important as mitigation, if not more so. Add "adaptation and" so that it reads as follows:
*Develop a climate **adaptation and** mitigation plan.*
5. Goal 1, Policy 2a (page 2, line 22): Add "adaptation and" so that it reads as follows:
*...to increase climate **adaptation and** mitigation and cultivate...*
6. Goal 1, Policy 2c (page 2, line 34): Add a fourth sub-policy that reads:
iv. Average temperatures that increase over time
7. Goal 2, Policy 10 (page 3, line 22): Energy efficiency should be a requirement. Add "as a requirement" so that it reads:
*...publicly funded developments **as a requirement**.*

8. As written, Goal 3 is a fact, not a goal statement (page 2, lines 28-29). Revise it to read as follows:
Maintain and enhance both natural systems and nature-based systems in the built environment that provide valuable services for climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.
9. Goal 3, Policy 15 (page 3, lines 39-40): If the County is to take climate seriously, this policy should go beyond forest stewardship, should be worded more strongly, and should include additional climate benefits. Edit the policy so that it reads as follows:
Promote and offer strong incentives for stewardship activities on forested lands, shorelines, wetlands, and agricultural lands that result in increased carbon sequestration, increased aquifer recharge, reduced wildfire risks, and reduced erosion.
10. Goal 3, Policy 16 (page 3, lines 39-40): Edit the first sentence of the policy so that it reads as follows:
Maintain and enhance ecosystem services that mitigate the effects of climate change, particularly on natural landscapes and designated Agricultural and Forest Resource Lands.

Thank you for giving these suggestions due consideration. Moving forward, it will be important to establish time horizons for the County's actions on climate — we look forward to working with the County to address climate impacts in the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea.