

Donna DePamphilis

From: Erika Shook
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:23 AM
To: Linda Ann Kuller
Subject: FW: Update to the 2017-201 SJC CP

I have not responded.

From: Sandy Playa [mailto:sandyplaya@rockisland.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:10 AM
To: DL - Council ; Erika Shook
Subject: Update to the 2017-201 SJC CP

San Juan County Council,

I have read the Vision Statement which states "We support a pattern of economic growth and development which serves the needs of our community, and which recognizes the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural, marine and isolated nature of the islands." Other phrases in the vision statement talk about stewardship and preserving pristine environments. I moved here to enjoy what the islands are like now, and I am concerned that they may grow to lose many of these qualities, something that has happened all over the country to beautiful small rural communities. I understand that the comprehensive plan is going to be updated. Please ensure that it supports the Vision Statement.

I have lived on Orcas Island for 24 + years, and have both a timber and a tourist business here. I do not believe that adding moorings in Fishing Bay will benefit our Island's tourism, or year round economy. Quality, not quantity, is what we have to both sell and enjoy for ourselves.

Indian Island is a treasure of wildlife, research, and education. It is already suffering from the huge #'s of visitors at low tide, requiring volunteers to protect the oyster catcher nest and fragile life that clings there. The little Indian Island's diversity is not limited to what lives on the rocks. The water flowing around it and the undersea floor in Fishing Bay are what allow the critters there to thrive. Moorings themselves are the tiny part of the change installing them will create. Pollution from the boats using the moorings is practically unenforceable. The presence of the boats and the activity on them, will change the habitat beneath them. The activity of dinghies needing to use the dock...and the inevitable expansion of the dock to accommodate them are all unwanted disruptions of this habitat that we only see from above...but is quite active below our view.

I have tried to follow the Comprehensive Plan...but I must admit, to me, spending time reading it is an exercise in futility. Why? A simple outline of the benefits and costs would work as long as it is a clear, and true representation of the benefits and costs. If the Comprehensive Plan cannot be written/presented in a way that is understandable to the majority of people who live here, it should not be acted upon.

Please. Let Orcas Island set the bar high for protecting our environment and small village tourist destination. If people want to look out at a bunch of boats, and the people on them, there are many other established places to do that, even here in the San Juans.

Please. Set a precedent for open and honest communication about all matters that you have jurisdiction over as my elected officials.

Thanks, Sandy Playa
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