



SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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TRANSMITTAL MEMO

TO: Planning Commission
CC: Erika Shook, AICP, Director, DCD, and;
Mike Thomas, County Manager
FROM: Adam Zack, Planner II, and;
Linda Kuller, AICP, Planning Manager, DCD
SUBJECT: 2036 Comprehensive Plan Update
Proposed Vision amendments
DATE: February 2, 2018
BRIEFING: Planning Commission: February 16, 2018
ATTACHMENT: Draft Vision Amendments dated February 16, 2018
Existing Vision Statement

Issue: To receive comments from Planning Commission and the public on a preliminary draft Vision amendments.

Attachment: The attached document presents the staff recommendations for amending the Comprehensive Plan Vision based on Planning Commission input received January 19, 2018. In the document, amendments are presented in strikeout and underline format (for example new additions, ~~removed~~, and relocated).

Background: At the January 19, 2018 Commission meeting, staff received direction for possible amendments to the Vision. Staff presented and Commission considered community input from the report *San Juan County Vision 2036 Update Process* <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/13890>. The report summarizes public input gathered during the fall of 2017 by consultants from Studio Cascade Inc. The proposed amendments were drafted using the guidance provided by Commission and public comments from the report.

Next Step: A Planning Commission public hearing is tentatively scheduled for March 16, 2018.

Public Comments: The public is invited to provide comment on the proposed amendments at the Planning Commission meeting. Prior to the meeting date, written comments may also be emailed to compplancomments@sanjuanco.com, or mailed to Adam Zack, SJC Department of Community Development PO Box 947 Friday Harbor, WA 98250 or dropped by the office during business hours at 935 Rhone Street Friday Harbor. Written comments about particular changes should refer to the page and line numbers on the amendments proposed in the document linked above. For questions, please contact Adam Zack at (360) 370-7580 or adamz@sanjuanco.com.



DRAFT VISION AMENDMENTS SAN JUAN COUNTY VISION 2036

DESCRIPTION

This draft was prepared by staff with direction from the San Juan County Planning Commission. It is the first draft of proposed amendments to the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan Vision statement for Planning Commission review. The recommendations are based on public input and a January 19, 2018 Planning Commission work session.

Adam Zack, Planner II

Department of Community Development

FEBRUARY 2, 2018 - DRAFT

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

1 PURPOSE

2 In 2018, San Juan County will update its Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement
3 has been selected to be a part of this update. The following is the first draft of a Vision Statement
4 amendment proposal. This document also outlines the community input and Planning Commission
5 guidance that informed the proposed Vision Amendments. The entire Vision with the proposed
6 amendments is shown first. Then, each section of the Vision Statement is covered with the following
7 format: existing and proposed statement, summary of the core issues for that topic, a bullet-point list of
8 the specific amendments, and an explanation of why the change was proposed. Amendments are
9 presented in ~~strikeout~~ and underline format (for example new additions, ~~removed~~, and relocated).

10 BACKGROUND

11 In September, October, and November of 2017, San Juan County Department of Community Development
12 (DCD) and consultants from Studio Cascade Inc. (SCI) performed community engagement to generate
13 public input on the currently adopted Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement. This engagement consisted
14 of pop-up studios, workshops, a mini-poll, and an online survey. SCI summarized the public input
15 accumulated during these months in *San Juan County Vision 2036 Update Process*, referred to hereafter
16 as 'the Report'.

17 On January 19, 2018, Planning Commission conducted a work session to determine the appropriate scope
18 of the Vision amendments. DCD staff presented the Planning Commission with information from the
19 Report and received direction for amendments to each section of the Vision. Four questions were asked
20 for each section:

- 21 • Is there a change needed?
- 22 • Does specific language need to change?
- 23 • Does the statement structure need to change?
- 24 • Is something missing from this statement?

25 Planning Commission considered the community input in answering each question. Throughout the work
26 session, staff and Commissioners pointed out that the currently adopted Vision Statement only requires
27 small amendments to reflect accurately the aspirations of the community.

28 Planning Commission and community input formed the basis of the following proposed amendments.
29 Care was taken to respect the existing Vision Statement while crafting amendments to refine the Vision
30 to encompass the hopes of the San Juan County community as expressed in 2018.

31 This update process was conducted with deference to the Vision Statement that was initially adopted with
32 the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan. DCD staff and Planning Commission recognize the significant
33 effort that went in to the drafting of the original Vision Statement and appreciate the work of every
34 individual that contributed.

35

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

1 PROPOSED VISION

2 **PREAMBLE: WE THE PEOPLE** of San Juan County recognize that these rural islands are an extraordinary
3 treasure of natural beauty and abundance, and that independence, privacy and personal freedom are
4 values prized by islanders. Being a diverse people bound together by these shared values, we declare
5 our commitment to work towards this vision of the San Juan Islands in 2020 A.D.

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

12 **BASIC HUMAN NEEDS** Our islands are places where all citizens can safely walk or play, day or night. The
13 drinking water supply is clean, ~~and adequate,~~ and conserved as a vital resource. Health care, elder care,
14 and help in time of need are accessible and affordable. ~~The supply of affordable housing is adequate to~~
15 ~~meet the needs of our diverse population.~~ Making a life here is possible for all people and is not limited
16 by access to basic human needs. (See page 6)

17 **EDUCATION** Learning is a continuing lifelong process ~~which that~~ is encouraged and aided by the
18 community. A partnership of families and community creates a supportive and challenging environment
19 founded on academic excellence and artistic expression. This educational environment produces ethical,
20 self-directed, compassionate, responsible world citizens, alive with the love of learning. (See page 7)

21 **ECONOMY** We support a pattern of economic growth and development which serves the needs of our
22 community, and which recognizes the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural, marine and isolated nature of
23 the islands. Our economy comprises a wide spectrum of stable, year-round activities that provide family
24 wage employment for islanders. The workforce is able to live, work, and thrive locally. We support and
25 encourage traditional industries including forestry, farming, aquaculture, construction, fishing and
26 tourism without jeopardizing the ~~resources~~ natural environment on which they depend. We have home
27 occupations and cottage ~~industries which~~ enterprises that are compatible with surrounding
28 neighborhoods. We encourage new ideas and new technology for improving the quality and profitability
29 of our goods and services. Advanced interactive communication systems are encouraged support our
30 economy. Value-added activities are encouraged. Environmental conservation and sustainable
31 development are balanced. (See page 8)

32 **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT** Our islands have exceptional natural beauty and healthy diverse ecosystems
33 surrounded by pollution-free marine waters. The air is fresh and clean, the water quality is excellent,
34 and the soil is uncontaminated. As careful stewards of these islands, we conserve resources, protect our
35 shorelines and critical areas, preserve open space, and take appropriate action to assure healthy land
36 and marine environments. The natural environment is central to the ecological health, quality of life,
37 and the economy in the islands. Native plants and animals of the islands thrive, and are identified,
38 appreciated and conserved. (See page 10)

39

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

1 **LAND USE** Neighborhoods, hamlets, villages and towns are clearly defined ~~so as to conserve agricultural,~~
2 forest, mineral resource and ~~environmentally sensitive lands~~ critical areas. These areas define our
3 heritage and sense of place, ~~provide~~ providing for commerce and community activities without losing
4 their small scale and attractive island ambiance. ~~There is housing for people of all incomes.~~ The unique
5 character of our shorelines is protected by encouraging uses ~~which that~~ maintain or enhance the quality
6 of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use strategies, our citizens and institutions
7 balance and protect private property rights, public rights, and our natural environment. (See page 11)

8 ~~**TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION**~~ We have water, land, and air transportation systems
9 commensurate with our island culture. On-island circulation is by means of a system of scenic rural
10 roads with automobile, bicycle and pedestrian ways functioning without conflict. In some places, the
11 roads are unpaved, narrow, and winding, and care is taken to maintain a rustic quality in public signs.
12 Transportation plans equally consider cyclists, pedestrians, automobiles, public transportation, and rural
13 character. Expansion or new construction of basic public transportation facilities occurs only ~~on the basis~~
14 ~~of based on~~ demonstrated local public need. ~~Advanced interactive communication systems are~~
15 ~~encouraged.~~ (See page 12)

16 **ENERGY AND RESOURCES** Our community fosters resource and energy conservation. Energy
17 independence is encouraged. Drinking water resources are managed to meet the needs of our
18 community and the natural environment. Recycling, solid waste, and sewage treatment are managed
19 both within the confines of each island and Countywide in an environmentally sound manner.
20 Renewable natural resources are used on a sustainable basis. Nonrenewable resources are conserved
21 wherever possible and practical. (See page 13)

22 **ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION** Our community nurtures the expression of its creative talents and
23 supports diverse cultural and entertainment activities. Our cultural facilities such as libraries, museums,
24 and theaters are focal points of activity and community support. Well-managed parks, trails, and
25 shoreline access, where appropriate, provide islanders with recreation with due regard for both the
26 rights of private property owners and the natural limitations of each site. (See page 14)

27 **HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION** Our community is enriched by a strong sense of identity,
28 tradition, legacy, and continuity, where past and present freely mingle. We recognize the contributions
29 to our rural and maritime heritage made by indigenous peoples, explorers, and island pioneers, ~~and~~
30 ~~encourage the preservation of that heritage.~~ We encourage preservation of historic sites, heritage,
31 structures, and traditions for the enjoyment of all. (See page 15)

32 **GOVERNANCE** We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are equally represented by elected
33 officials who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open
34 manner ~~which that~~ recognizes the independent, self-reliant nature of its citizens. Our government
35 institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate services where practical,
36 manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a timely manner. (See
37 page 16)

38 **HOUSING** The supply of accessible and affordable housing is adequate to meet the needs of our diverse
39 population. There is housing for people of all incomes. There is sufficient variety in housing types to
40 accommodate diverse households. Raising a family, having a good quality of life, and economic
41 opportunities are not limited by access to housing. (See page 17)

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

1 **CLIMATE CHANGE** Our island community sets an example with its response to climate change. We
2 proactively address the effects of climate change like sea level rise and drought. Our community
3 encourages voluntary efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. Preparations to mitigate these affects are
4 made in advance before they become crises. (See page 18)

5

DRAFT

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

EXISTING	PROPOSED
Our islands are places where all citizens can safely walk or play, day or night. The drinking water supply is clean and adequate. Health care and help in time of need are accessible and affordable. The supply of affordable housing is adequate to meet the needs of our diverse population.	Our islands are places where all citizens can safely walk or play, day or night. The drinking water supply is clean, <u>and adequate, and conserved as a vital resource.</u> Health care, <u>elder care,</u> and help in time of need are accessible and affordable. The supply of affordable housing is adequate to meet the needs of our diverse population. <u>Making a life here is possible for all people and not limited by access to basic human needs.</u>

ISSUES

On page 25 of the Report, community input identified access to housing, safe drinking water, and access to healthcare as the most important parts of this section of the Vision. Respondents expressed concern that meeting these basic needs is particularly challenging in our community.

- A large majority of respondents, in every public engagement opportunity, mentioned the lack of affordable, available housing for the local workforce.
- There is relative unanimity in the concern for both quantity and quality of drinking water in the future. Respondents mentioned saltwater intrusion into ground water, varying degrees of ground water availability on different islands in different places, changes in water quantity because of climate change, and the concept of “carrying capacity” of the water resource.
- Access to health care, particularly elder care, was an issue many respondents expressed concern regarding.

During the January 19 Planning Commission work session it was suggested that housing is a concern that warrants its own section within the Vision. There was a suggestion that the mention of safety may be better suited to be included with transportation. Inclusion of the concept of “aging in place” in the healthcare statement was also proposed.

PROPOSAL

- “and conserved as a vital resource.” Added to the second sentence
- “elder care” added to the third sentence
- “The supply of affordable housing is adequate to meet the needs of our diverse population.” Relocated to the ‘Housing’ statement
- “Making a life here is possible for all people and not limited by access to basic human needs.” added

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

1 EXPLANATION

2 **“Conserved as a vital resource.”** Much of the public input regarding this section of the vision statement
3 expressed concern over the supply of drinking water. The existing statement envisioned the drinking
4 water supply as clean and adequate but did not specifically address conservation of this resource;
5 something the community input specifically called out as important.

6 **“Elder care”** Elder care was added to the statement about health care. Public input highlighted that our
7 aging population have unique health care needs that are not highlighted in the current statement.

8 **“The supply of affordable housing is adequate to meet the needs of our diverse population”** This
9 statement was struck from the Basic Human Needs section and moved to the Housing statement included
10 with this proposal.

11 **“Making a life here is possible for all people and not limited by access to basic human needs.”** Public
12 input and Planning Commission conversation expressed a concern that people trying to make a life here
13 may not be able to do so because of a lack of access to the basic human needs outlined in this section of
14 the Vision. This concern over access underpins the anxiety expressed about housing, healthcare and
15 drinking water. Including a broad, declarative statement that living here will not be contingent on the
16 satisfaction of basic human needs should address this community concern and reflect a future that the
17 community aspires to.

18 EDUCATION

EXISTING	PROPOSED
Learning is a continuing lifelong process which is encouraged and aided by the community. A partnership of families and community creates a supportive and challenging environment founded on academic excellence and artistic expression. This educational environment produces ethical, self-directed, compassionate, responsible world citizens, alive with the love of learning.	Learning is a continuing lifelong process which <u>that</u> is encouraged and aided by the community. A partnership of families and community creates a supportive and challenging environment founded on academic excellence and artistic expression. This educational environment produces ethical, self-directed, compassionate, responsible world citizens, alive with the love of learning.

19

20 ISSUES

21 The community input and Planning Commission recommendations did not indicate significant change was
22 needed to this statement.

23 PROPOSAL

- 24 • “Which” changed to “that”

25 EXPLANATION

26 **“That”** This change is proposed to correct a grammatical error.

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

ECONOMY

1

EXISTING	PROPOSED
<p>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. Our economy comprises a wide spectrum of stable, year-round activities that provide employment for islanders. We support and encourage traditional industries including forestry, farming, aquaculture, construction, fishing and tourism without jeopardizing the resources on which they depend. We have home occupations and cottage industries which are compatible with surrounding neighborhoods. We encourage new ideas and new technology for improving the quality and profitability of our goods and services. Value-added activities are encouraged. Environmental conservation and sustainable development are balanced.</p>	<p>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. Our economy comprises a wide spectrum of stable, year-round activities that provide <u>family wage</u> employment for islanders. <u>The workforce is able to live, work, and thrive locally.</u> We support and encourage traditional industries including forestry, farming, aquaculture, construction, fishing and tourism without jeopardizing the <u>resources-natural environment</u> on which they depend. We have home occupations and cottage <u>industries which enterprises that</u> are compatible with surrounding neighborhoods. We encourage new ideas and new technology for improving the quality and profitability of our goods and services. <u>Advanced interactive communication systems are encouraged</u> support our economy. Value-added activities are encouraged. Environmental conservation and sustainable development are balanced.</p>

2

ISSUES

3
4 In the Report on page 31, community input identified access to housing, changes in the resource-based
5 economy, and the growth of tourism as the most important parts of this section of the Vision. The core
6 issues identified in the Report are:

- 7
- 8 • Housing is too expensive for many islanders, causing many, including tradespeople and entry-level professionals, to settle for substandard or distant housing.
 - 9 • The resource-based economic sector referenced in the Vision is weakening and undergoing transition, playing a less significant role in the area's economy than the one implied.
 - 10 • Shifts to a more tourism-based economy relies on a number of lower-paying, seasonal jobs in contradiction to the year-round, stable employment called for in the Vision.
- 11
12

13 During the January 19th Planning Commission work session, attention was called to the need for this
14 statement to highlight 'family wage jobs', workforce housing, and that tourism may require its own
15 statement. Commissioners pointed out that home occupations and cottage enterprises, as they exist in
16 San Juan County Code, are a vital part of the County's economy. It was pointed out that many of the
17 resource industry references in this statement were valuable as an homage to our heritage. The central

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

1 points Commissioners wanted expressed by this statement were the need for labor force development
2 and diversifying the kind of employment available.

3 PROPOSAL

- 4 • “Family wage” added to the second sentence
- 5 • “The workforce is able to live, work, and thrive locally.” Added as the third sentence
- 6 • “resources” changed to “natural environment” in the fourth sentence
- 7 • “industries which” changed to “enterprises that”
- 8 • “Advanced interactive communication systems support our economy.” Added, with a minor
9 modification, from the transportation section

10 EXPLANATION

11 **“Family wage”** Planning Commission and community input respondents both identified the growing need
12 for higher quality jobs in our community. Including “family wage” in the description of employment we
13 aspire to seems a succinct way to sum-up what type of jobs the community and Planning Commission
14 would like to see in San Juan County by the year 2036.

15 **“The workforce is able to live, work, and thrive locally.”** Public comments and Planning Commission
16 discussion focused on the link between workforce housing and the islands economy. Many public
17 comments also mentioned the concern that residents are, or would be, priced out of living here. When
18 considering the economy moving forward the County can aspire to and support a workforce that lives in
19 the islands.

20 **“Resources”** The word resources was changed to natural environment to reflect the change in the
21 relationship between the islands’ economy and the environment.

22 **“Industries which”** Changed to “enterprises that”, this corrects a grammatical error and reflects the
23 cottage enterprise land use listed in the San Juan County Code.

24 **“Advanced interactive communication systems support our economy.”** The inclusion of communication
25 with transportation came up in the public engagement and Planning Commission discussion. Many
26 respondents did not understand why it was included with transportation and Commission recommended
27 moving it. It has been added to the ‘Economy’ section because advanced communication systems seem
28 to relate more to the County’s economy.

29

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

1

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

EXISTING	PROPOSED
Our islands have exceptional natural beauty and healthy diverse ecosystems surrounded by pollution-free marine waters. The air is fresh and clean, the water quality is excellent, and the soil is uncontaminated. As careful stewards of these islands, we conserve resources, preserve open space, and take appropriate action to assure healthy land and marine environments. Native plants and animals of the islands thrive, and are identified, appreciated and conserved.	Our islands have exceptional natural beauty and healthy diverse ecosystems surrounded by pollution-free marine waters. The air is fresh and clean, the water quality is excellent, and the soil is uncontaminated. As careful stewards of these islands, we conserve resources, <u>protect our shorelines</u> , preserve open space, and take appropriate action to assure healthy land and marine environments. <u>Preserving the natural environment is central to the ecological health, quality of life, and the economy in the islands.</u> Native plants and animals of the islands thrive, and are identified, appreciated and conserved.

2

ISSUES

4 In the Vision 2036 Update Process report on page 35, the section on natural environment outlined the
5 community concerns about climate change. The core issues identified in the Report are:

- 6 • Many of the topics of central concern have solutions that are beyond local control, relying on
7 other agencies and actors.
- 8 • The availability of drinking water is largely unknown, and many residents are critically interested
9 in how water availability will influence population growth policy.

10 Planning Commission suggested that this section include a reference to shorelines. They acknowledged
11 the community's concern about drinking water but did not feel that this was the best topic heading to
12 address that issue. They also highlighted the relationship between the natural environment and our
13 economy.

PROPOSAL

- 15 • "Protect our shorelines" Added to the third sentence
- 16 • "Preserving the natural environment is central to the ecological health, quality of life, and the
17 economy in the islands." Added as a fourth sentence

EXPLANATION

19 "**Protect our shorelines**" was added to the third sentence to reflect the Planning Commission suggestion
20 that shorelines be mentioned in this statement.

21 "**Preserving the natural environment is central...**" This sentence was added to strengthen the connection
22 between the natural environment, our quality of life, and our economy. Community input identified the
23 changing nature of the resource-based economy in the islands. Respondents pointed out that the value
24 of preserving our natural environment was equal to the value of extracting natural resources.

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

LAND USE

1

EXISTING	PROPOSED
<p>Neighborhoods, hamlets, villages and towns are clearly defined so as to conserve agricultural, forest, mineral resource and environmentally sensitive lands. These areas provide for commerce and community activities without losing their small scale and attractive island ambiance. There is housing for people of all incomes. The unique character of our shorelines is protected by encouraging uses which maintain or enhance the quality of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use strategies, our citizens and institutions balance and protect private property rights, public rights, and our natural environment.</p>	<p>Neighborhoods, hamlets, villages and towns are clearly defined so as to conserve agricultural, forest, mineral resource and environmentally sensitive lands <u>critical areas</u>. These areas <u>define our heritage and sense of place, provide</u> provide <u>providing</u> for commerce and community activities without losing their small scale and attractive island ambiance. There is housing for people of all incomes. The unique character of our shorelines is protected by encouraging uses which that <u>that</u> maintain or enhance the quality of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use strategies, our citizens and institutions balance and protect private property rights, public rights, and our natural environment.</p>

2

3 ISSUES

4 In the Vision 2036 Update Process report on page 39, community concerns regarding the topic of land use
5 are outlined. The core issues identified in the Report are:

- 6 • Rural character is becoming less about actual agricultural use and more about the atmosphere
7 and aesthetics provided by open fields and forests.
- 8 • Housing is not easily available for people living year-round on the islands and part of the
9 workforce.
- 10 • Existing levels of development already permitted by zoning may make growth management
11 challenging.

12 Planning Commission focused on sharpening the definition of rural, agricultural, and urban areas in this
13 statement. They pointed out that these three components of the statement, and land use in general,
14 define our community and need to be clearly understood. Commission also acknowledged that the Vision
15 might not be the best place to fully flush out these definitions. Overall, Commission felt that the currently
16 adopted statement is strong.

17 PROPOSAL

- 18 • “So as” struck out
- 19 • “environmentally sensitive lands” struck out and replaced with “critical areas”.
- 20 • “define our heritage and sense of place, providing” added to the second sentence
- 21 • “There is housing for people of all incomes” struck, moved to housing statement
- 22 • “Which” changed to “that”

23

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

1 **EXPLANATION**

2 **“So as”** this was struck out to correct a grammatical error.

3 **“Critical Areas”** replaces environmentally sensitive lands in the first sentence. This will make the Vision
 4 consistent with the language of the County Code. Environmentally sensitive lands was a phrase previously
 5 used in the code, it was changed to critical areas.

6 **“Define our heritage and sense of place, providing...”** This was added to the second sentence to respond
 7 to community input that highlighted the link between rural areas and island heritage.

8 **“There is housing for people of all incomes.”** This was moved to the housing statement per Commission
 9 request.

10 **“Which”** Struck in favor of “that”, this corrects a grammatical error.

11 **TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION**

EXISTING	PROPOSED
<p>We have water, land, and air transportation systems commensurate with our island culture. On-island circulation is by means of a system of scenic rural roads with automobile, bicycle and pedestrian ways functioning without conflict. In some places, the roads are unpaved, narrow, and winding, and care is taken to maintain a rustic quality in public signs. Expansion or new construction of basic public transportation facilities occurs only on the basis of demonstrated local public need. Advanced interactive communication systems are encouraged.</p>	<p>We have water, land, and air transportation systems commensurate with our island culture. On-island circulation is by means of a system of scenic rural roads with automobile, bicycle and pedestrian ways functioning without conflict. In some places, the roads are unpaved, narrow, and winding, and care is taken to maintain a rustic quality in public signs. <u>Transportation plans equally consider cyclists, pedestrians, automobiles, public transportation, and rural character.</u> Expansion or new construction of basic public transportation facilities occurs only on the basis of <u>based on</u> demonstrated local public need. Advanced interactive communication systems are encouraged.</p>

12
 13 **ISSUES**

14 In the Vision 2036 Update Process report on page 43, community concerns regarding the topic of land use
 15 are outlined. The core issues identified in the Report are:

- 16 • The county’s roads are perceived as unsafe, making people reluctant to walk or ride bikes and
 17 potentially endangering those who do.
- 18 • The islands rely heavily on the State ferry system and count on its continued reliability and
 19 adequacy of service.
- 20 • Traffic congestion and continued reliance on the car for daily needs - particularly during tourist
 21 season - may drive a scale of improvements that jeopardize rural character.

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

- 1 • There are different expectations of what needs the roadways serve, and design standards may
- 2 not universally apply.
- 3 • Inclusion of “interactive communication” in this portion of the vision is not entirely understood.

4 Planning Commission felt that this statement overall is strong. They pointed out that the third sentence
 5 summarized the importance of rural character well. Commission recommended relocating the final
 6 sentence about communication. They agreed with public input that including communication with
 7 transportation does not make sense today in the same way that it did when the statement was drafted.
 8 The Commissioners pointed out the need to balance infrastructure improvements with rural character,
 9 that bicycle and pedestrian considerations should be included but not at the expense of rural character.

10 PROPOSAL

- 11 • “Transportation plans equally consider cyclists, pedestrians, automobiles, public transportation,
- 12 and rural character.” Added as a fourth sentence
- 13 • “On the basis of” changed to “based on”
- 14 • “Advanced interactive communication systems are encouraged.” Struck and relocated to
- 15 economy

16 EXPLANATION

17 **“Transportation plans equally consider...”** This sentence was added to strengthen the consideration of
 18 bicycles, pedestrians, public transportation, and rural character. The concept was to unite the vast public
 19 input requesting bicycle and pedestrian improvements with the Planning Commission’s imperative to
 20 protect rural character.

21 **“Based on”** ‘On the basis of’ was changed to ‘based on’ to make this statement more concise.

22 **“Advanced interactive communication...”** This statement was relocated to the economy statement to
 23 respond to public input and Commission’s recommendation to find a more logical fit.

24

25

ENERGY AND RESOURCES

EXISTING	PROPOSED
<p>Our community fosters resource and energy conservation. Energy independence is encouraged. Recycling, solid waste, and sewage treatment are managed within the confines of each island in an environmentally sound manner. Renewable natural resources are used on a sustainable basis. Nonrenewable resources are conserved wherever possible and practical.</p>	<p>Our community fosters resource and energy conservation. Energy independence is encouraged. <u>Drinking water resources are managed to meet the needs of our community and the natural environment.</u> Recycling, solid waste, and sewage treatment are managed <u>both</u> within the confines of each island <u>and</u> <u>Countywide</u> in an environmentally sound manner. Renewable natural resources are used on a sustainable basis. Nonrenewable resources are conserved wherever possible and practical.</p>

26

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

1 ISSUES

2 In page 49 of the Report, community concerns regarding the topic of energy and resources are outlined.
3 The core issues identified in the Report are:

- 4 • It has proven challenging to initiate and sustain conservation and recycling efforts, mostly because
5 the market for recycled materials is inconsistent and beyond local control.
- 6 • Generalized awareness of the need for energy and resource conservation has not fully translated
7 to policy and action.

8 Planning Commission highlighted that the currently adopted statement limits resource and waste
9 management to ‘the confines of each island’. They suggested that this be broadened to include the
10 County overall. Including a stronger statement on the importance of drinking water came up during the
11 conversation on basic human needs but Commission felt that another place in the statement would be
12 more appropriate. The primacy of protecting drinking water was brought up in conversations about many
13 of the subjects in the Vision.

14 PROPOSAL

- 15 • “Drinking water resources are managed to meet the needs of our community and the natural
16 environment.” Added as a third sentence
- 17 • “Both” “and Countywide” added to the existing third sentence

18 EXPLANATION

19 **“Drinking water resources...”** This sentence was added to strengthen the Vision’s response to concerns
20 over the availability and management of drinking water resources. Managing this resource in a
21 sustainable manner requires that consideration be paid to not only the needs of our community but also
22 those of the environment. This should address the concerns expressed over managing the water supply
23 and being conscious of the effects we have on the environment (i.e. effluent produced by desalination).

24 **“Both” and “Countywide”.** These words were added to the existing third sentence to broaden the
25 statement to include Commission comments concerning the need to look at the islands’ system overall.

26 ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION

EXISTING	PROPOSED
Our community nurtures the expression of its creative talents and supports diverse cultural and entertainment activities. Our cultural facilities such as libraries, museums, and theaters are focal points of activity and community support. Well managed parks, trails, and shoreline access, where appropriate, provide islanders with recreation with due regard for both the rights of private property owners and the natural limitations of each site.	Our community nurtures the expression of its creative talents and supports diverse cultural and entertainment activities. Our cultural facilities such as libraries, museums, and theaters are focal points of activity and community support. <u>Well-managed</u> parks, trails, and shoreline access, where appropriate, provide islanders with recreation with due regard for both the rights of private property owners and the natural limitations of each site.

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

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ISSUES

Community input and Planning Commission suggestions indicated that this statement does not need amendment.

PROPOSAL

- “Well managed” changed to “Well-managed”

EXPLANATION

“Well-managed” A minor grammatical correction.

HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

EXISTING	PROPOSED
Our community is enriched by a strong sense of identity, tradition, legacy, and continuity, where past and present freely mingle. We recognize the contributions to our rural and maritime heritage made by indigenous peoples, explorers, and island pioneers, and encourage the preservation of that heritage. We encourage preservation of historic sites, structures, and traditions for the enjoyment of all.	Our community is enriched by a strong sense of identity, tradition, legacy, and continuity, where past and present freely mingle. We recognize the contributions to our rural and maritime heritage made by indigenous peoples, explorers, and island pioneers, and encourage the preservation of that heritage. We encourage preservation of historic sites, <u>heritage</u> , structures, and traditions for the enjoyment of all.

ISSUES

Community input and Planning Commission suggestions indicated that this statement does not need amendment.

PROPOSAL

- “And encourage the preservation of that heritage.” Struck out
- “heritage” added to the last sentence

EXPLANATION

“Heritage” The concept preservation is addressed in the final sentence of this statement. Relocating preservation of heritage to be included in the final sentence makes more sense and reduces the wordiness.

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

GOVERNANCE

1

EXISTING	PROPOSED
<p>We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are equally represented by elected officials who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open manner which recognizes the independent, self-reliant nature of its citizens. Our government institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate services where practical, manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a timely manner.</p>	<p>We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are equally represented by elected officials who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open manner which <u>that</u> recognizes the independent, self-reliant nature of its citizens. Our government institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate services where practical, manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a timely manner.</p>

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3 ISSUES

4 Community input and Planning Commission suggestions indicated that this statement does not need
5 amendment.

6 PROPOSAL

- 7 • “Which” changed to “that”

8 EXPLANATION

9 “Which” which was struck in favor of “that”, this corrects a grammatical error.

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PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

PROPOSED NEW STATEMENT SECTIONS

HOUSING

EXISTING	PROPOSED
N/A	<u>The supply of accessible and affordable housing is adequate to meet the needs of our diverse population. There is housing for people of all incomes. There is sufficient variety in housing types to accommodate diverse households. Raising a family, having a good quality of life, and economic opportunities are not limited by access to housing.</u>

*note: new additions, ~~removed~~, and relocated

ISSUES

Planning Commission recommended the creation of a new housing Vision statement to reflect the increased public concerns over housing. Commission pointed out that housing availability and affordability affect the economy, land use, and basic human needs. The idea is that the scope and breadth of housing's impact warrant special consideration in the Vision.

The community input also highlighted the broad concerns regarding housing. The core issues are summarized in the Report on pages 25, 31, & 39.

- Finding housing accessible to working families and individuals is a critical challenge, with half of all residential units devoted to short-term rental or second homes (Report page 25).
- Housing is too expensive for many islanders, causing many, including tradespeople and entry-level professionals, to settle for substandard or distant housing (Report page 31).
- Housing is not easily available for people living year-round on the islands and part of the workforce (Report page 39).

PROPOSAL

- "The supply of accessible and affordable housing is adequate to meet the needs of our diverse population."
- "There is housing for people of all incomes."
- "There is sufficient variety in housing types to accommodate diverse households."
- "Raising a family, having a good quality of life, and economic opportunities are not limited by access to housing."

EXPLANATION

"The supply of..." This statement was moved from the Basic Human Needs statement. Accessible was added to reflect the changes that have occurred in the Islands since the adoption of the original Vision include a problem with access to housing. In addition to the price, concerns of the general availability of housing were a common theme.

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

1 **“There is housing for people of all incomes.”** This statement was moved from land use. It addresses the
 2 aspiration that housing that is affordable will be available regardless of personal income.

3 **“There is sufficient variety in housing types to accommodate diverse households.”** This statement was
 4 added to include the concept of diversifying our housing stock. The idea is that a diverse housing stock
 5 will allow for more working families, reasonably priced rentals, and aging in place for elderly residents.
 6 These were all concerns expressed by Commission and the public.

7 **“Raising a family, having a good quality of life, and economic opportunities are not limited by access to
 8 housing.”** This statement was added to reflect an aspiration that access housing will not prevent anyone
 9 from making a life in the islands. This aspiration was expressed throughout the public engagement.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

EXISTING	PROPOSED
N/A	<u>Our island community sets an example with its response to climate change. We proactively address the effects of climate change like sea level rise and drought. Our community encourages voluntary efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. Preparations to mitigate these affects are made in advance before they become crises.</u>

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ISSUES

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 15 In the Vision 2036 Update Process report on page 35, the section on natural environment outlined the
 16 community concerns about climate change. The core issues identified in the Report are:

- 17 • A large number of mini-poll and survey responses called for the inclusion of climate change in the
 18 Vision.
- 19 • Many of the topics of central concern have solutions that are beyond local control, relying on
 20 other agencies and actors.
- 21 • Questionnaire respondents believe that the County should adopt policy that would incorporate
 22 climate change consideration in its decisions.

23 Planning Commission climate change was a concern for many residents. It was suggested that it does not
 24 neatly fit into one of the existing statements and needed to be included as its own topic.

PROPOSAL

- 26 • “Our island community sets an example with its response to climate change.”
- 27 • “We proactively address the effects of climate change like sea level rise and drought.”

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AMENDMENTS

- 1 • “Our community encourages voluntary efforts to reduce our carbon footprint.”
- 2 • “Preparations to mitigate these affects are made in advance before they become crises.”

3 EXPLANATION

4 **“Our island community sets an example...”** The phrase ‘sets an example’ was inspired by a questionnaire
5 response included in the Report in Appendix D pg. 146, comment #5. The aspiration is that our community
6 not only responds to climate change but that response is exemplary. We are uniquely positioned,
7 geographically and historically, to respond to the challenge of climate change as leaders.

8 **“We proactively address...”** Our archipelago is the frontline of many climate change affects. The affects
9 listed (sea-level rise and drought) are likely to be the impacts we experience. Community responses in
10 the Report were mostly focused on being prepared for the effects of climate change.

11 **“Our community encourages voluntary efforts...”** One of the recurring questions about the County’s
12 ability to respond to climate change centers on what actual methods are available and appropriate for the
13 County. One option that has been supported by both Commission and public input is the idea of voluntary
14 programs to reduce carbon footprint. This would include voluntarily building more energy efficient
15 buildings or converting to the use of electric cars. Focusing on voluntary efforts will provide some high-
16 level policy guidance for subsequent Comprehensive Plan amendments.

17 **“Preparations to mitigate...”** This statement is an aspiration to prepare for the effects of climate change
18 in a resilient manner. If we are prepared ahead of time, these effects will not be crises.

19