

## Adam Zack

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**From:** Josh Ratza <joshratza@me.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 19, 2018 2:46 PM  
**To:** Comp Plan Update  
**Subject:** Input from Lopez

Dear SJC Planning Commission,

My name is Josh Ratza. I own a small noodle bar here on Lopez and we use as much local food as we can get, both from the San Juans as well as the Skagit Valley. The idea of eating local not only sounds good but it really is grounding in a way that is incomparable to any other food experience. I've fed so many people that I've lost count and I cannot tell you how many conversations I've had about this. It shows who we are as a community by smell and taste and brings to your body the energy of the San Juans. I know this may sound a little weird but it really does. And so I hope you will consider the following:

I would like to request the addition of a new stand-alone section to the Vision Statement dedicated to Agriculture.

Specifically, I request that the Planning Commission:

- 1). Adopt Staff Report OPTION C: --Add a standalone Agriculture section to the Vision1
- 2). ADD the following language proposed by the Agriculture Resource Committee2 to this new Agriculture section

### AGRICULTURE

The San Juan Islands have a rich agricultural heritage that remains culturally and economically significant. We invest resources to ensure that agricultural lands are preserved and to maintain and enhance agricultural viability. We encourage regenerative practices and recognize the integral role that agriculture plays in the stewardship of our soils and water resources. Agricultural activities are essential to the health and well-being of our community, contributing to the social, economic and environmental fabric of our islands.

### References:

1. Staff OPTION C: Recommendation can be found on page 3 of SJC Department of Community Development Staff Report dated March 29, 2018 found here: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/14761>
2. Agricultural Resource Committee recommended addition to the Vision Statement found here: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/14627>

### Why this is important:

Existing references to agriculture are scattered between several of the Vision Statement elements, but there is no statement that accurately reflects the importance of agriculture to our community.

Thank you for your time,

Josh Ratza

Setsunai Noodle Bar / Kraut Pleasers Fermentations