

**COUNTY COUNCIL ADOPTED VISION AMENDMENTS - CLEAN
See Resolution 27-2018**

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. These rural islands are an extraordinary treasure: as a
5 community bound together by these shared values, we declare our commitment to work towards this
6 vision of the San Juan Islands.

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

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

19 **BASIC HUMAN NEEDS** Our islands are places where people are safe, day and night. The drinking water
20 supply is clean, adequate, and conserved as a vital resource. Health care and help in time of need are
21 accessible and affordable. Making a life here is not limited by lack of access to basic human needs.

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

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

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

35 **ENERGY AND RESOURCES** Our community strives for energy independence and zero waste. We use
36 renewable energy, materials, and natural resources on a sustainable basis. Solid waste and sewage
37 treatment are managed in an environmentally sound manner.

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1 **CLIMATE CHANGE** Our community sets an example with its response to climate change. We prepare to
2 address the negative effects in advance before they become crises. Our community encourages
3 voluntary efforts and enacts incentives and regulations if necessary to reduce our carbon footprint.

4 **ECONOMY** We support a diverse, resilient, and sustainable economy while respecting the natural world.
5 This economy serves the needs of our community, and recognizes the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural,
6 marine and isolated nature of the islands. Our economy comprises a wide spectrum of stable, year-round
7 activities that provide wages that allow islanders to live, work, and thrive locally. We encourage new ideas
8 and new technology for improving the quality and profitability of our goods and services. Communication
9 systems support our economy.

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

15 **LAND USE** Neighborhoods, hamlets, villages, towns, and other activity centers are clearly defined to
16 conserve, rural, agricultural, forest, mineral resource lands and critical areas. These areas define our
17 heritage and sense of place: providing for commerce and community activities without losing their small
18 scale and attractive island ambiance. The unique character of our shorelines is protected by encouraging
19 uses that maintain or enhance the health of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use
20 strategies, our citizens and institutions balance and protect private property rights, public rights, and our
21 natural environment.

22 **TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION** We have water, land, and air transportation systems
23 commensurate with our island culture. Transportation plans carefully consider multimodal transportation
24 and rural character. Expansion or construction of transportation systems, infrastructure, and facilities
25 occurs only based on demonstrated local public need. Advanced communication infrastructure is
26 encouraged.

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

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

36 **OUR COMMITMENT: AS FORTUNATE CITIZENS OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS, WE COMMIT** ourselves
37 individually and communally to a future for ourselves and our children that reflects this vision.