

Adam Zack

From: Mandy Troxel <crazylegs40@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 10:10 PM
To: DL - Council; Comp Plan Update; planaheadsanjuans@gmail.com
Cc: planaheadsanjuans@gmail.com
Subject: Update to the 2017-2018 SJC CP

In short, I choose Alternative 1: no build.

At length: I have lived on Orcas for 15 years, raising my two daughters, now ages 11 and 14. As a single parent in the low income bracket, I live in the Opal Commons neighborhood between Blanchard and Seaview. Thus, my concern over the airport expansion applies not only to the quality of life for all who live on this rural island, but more directly for my own home and neighborhood.

I purposely chose the Opal Commons neighborhood because of its proximity to town, and the number of young families who live in the area. Watching my children ride bikes with their friends through the neighborhood makes me nostalgic and happy. However, this neighborhood took a big hit when, despite our rallies and action, the propane tank was approved.

The airport expansion, which once again would drastically effect our neighborhood, feels like a punch in the gut now that we are already struggling in the wake of the propane tank debacle. To be honest, it feels very much like this island is more often choosing profit over quality of life for our long term residents. It doesn't feel like residents are being informed or given enough time to truly weigh in on the matters that will affect our daily lives. It has me second guessing my decision to move to this neighborhood three years ago. In this amount of time we've seen large industrial buildings go up on Mt. Baker Rd. such as the marijuana production plant, then the Propane tank approval, and now the airport.

As I imagine the airport expansion, I think about the air pollution that already greatly effects those of us near the airport. I think of the increased traffic on the streets where I walk my dogs and my children play. I think of the loss of the beautiful fields that I walk to in order to watch the wildlife who are thriving there. In my opinion, the amount of lives that these changes negatively affect far outnumber those who will benefit. I can only assume that the promise of profits is speaking to those making decisions more loudly than the outcry of island residents.

As a low income family, this neighborhood is one of the few options for stable housing for us here on Orcas. And, with organizations such as OPAL and the Land Bank, I have always felt that the "feel" of Orcas -- rural, intentional and safe for all -- was being sustained for the value that it offers its residents (no matter what age or income) and for the ecological health of the island. Watching this neighborhood take hit after hit has me wondering otherwise, and it is heartbreaking.

Please leave the airport as it is. An adequate facility for a small community that values quality of life over corporate profit.

Thank you,
Mandy Troxel
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