

Sophia Cassam

From: R. Brent Lyles <brent@sanjuans.org>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 2:51 PM
To: San Juan County Council; Comp Plan Update
Subject: Comments on the supplemental public participation process
Attachments: Public participation plan - Comments from Friends of the San Juans - 15mar2021.pdf

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Dear San Juan County Council Members, Planning Commissioners, and County staff,

Please find attached a comment letter from Friends of the San Juans on the recently released supplemental process for public participation in the Comp Plan update. Thank you for considering these suggestions, and please reach out to me with any questions or if this document fails to transmit faithfully.

Respectfully,

Brent

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R. Brent Lyles (he/him) | **Executive Director** | **Friends of the San Juans**
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Friends *of the* San Juans

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P.O. Box 1344
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To: San Juan County Council, Planning Commissioners, and Staff
From: R. Brent Lyles, Executive Director
Date: 15 March 2021
Subject: Comments on the Comp Plan supplemental public participation plan

Submitted via email to compplancomments@sanjuanco.com and council@sanjuanco.com

I am writing today with suggestions for the Supplemental Public Participation Plan: Comprehensive Plan Official Map Change, dated 4 March 2021:

1. As noted in previous comment letters, we again ask the County Council to direct Community Development staff to create a response-to-public-comments document that is regularly updated and publicly available. A comment-tracking system that summarizes all Comp Plan update comments and the response to each comment from staff, the Planning Commission, and the Council would be of great benefit to those of us who are carefully following this process. A regularly updated response-to-public-comments document is essential to robust public engagement and would help the public ensure that its comments have been received and considered. The document would also be a terrific tool to assist the Planning Commissioners and the County Council members as they move forward with this process. Once this tracking system is in place, the County's public participation plan should describe the system and the process for managing it.
2. Affected Tribes are not "stakeholders" — as sovereign entities, San Juan County should have government-to-government consultation with Tribes during this process. We encourage the County to affirm Tribal sovereignty and include explicit descriptions of a government-to-government consultation plan with affected Tribes in the public participation plan for this Comp Plan update, including explicit strategies under the various milestones.
3. Under the "Outreach Strategies Per Milestone," it is critically important to describe fully the advance information that County staff will provide to decisionmakers and the public for each project milestone — please include this.
4. Under the "Outreach Strategies Per Milestone," please include approximate target dates for each strategy.
5. There are currently no social media strategies listed under outreach strategies; please include social media explicitly in the outreach strategy.
6. Please include "Lower-Income and Other Historically Underserved Residents of San Juan County" on the list of key stakeholder groups to be explicitly engaged in this process, and please offer strategies for involving these members of our community, with a focus on best practices in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ).

7. Given our organization's decades-long history of participation in the County's Comprehensive Planning process, and given our successful track record of helping the County engage the public in the process, please explicitly include Friends of the San Juans among the "Local Nonprofits" who are key stakeholders in this process.

Thank you for giving these comments your due consideration.