

Adam Zack

From: Anne Karp <anne@awish.net>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Concerning Land Use and Rural Natural Resources Land Designation Review

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May 17, 2021

Greetings Planning Commissioners,

My name is Anne Whirledge-Karp, I am a past resident of Lopez Island from 2004 through 2019. Although I am not currently residing in the San Juan Islands my heart is permanently attached and my concern for the integrity and soul of the county remains active. Living close-by in the Salish Sea ecosystem means that I continue to be intimately connected through nature. What occurs throughout nature ultimately affects what occurs throughout humanity. Harm to our natural environment is not only devastating ecosystems, it is inevitably harming all interrelated life on earth. We see the devastation happening through the disruption of 'climate change' as a symptom of the devastating harm that has been happening to nature. The perpetuation of thinking of nature as property to be consumed to the point of extinction, as a resource, is a concept that needs to be reversed if we are to continue living on earth as one of its vulnerable species. Continuing to think of 'nature as property' has been fast tracked through individual and corporate greed, government complacency and legislation. The time is overdue to act by every means possible to reverse this concept through policy and law that will begin the healing needed to bring nature and climate back to a balance that will continue to support life as we know it.

Your work on the SJC Comprehensive Plan, as a Planning Commissioner, provides a great opportunity to move the county forward through your leadership, specifically to designate more agricultural and forestry lands in the islands as *resources just for climate resiliency*. Please inspire and enact policy to reflect the following in the Land Use section of the Comp Plan:

1. Work with scientists for determining the **maximum** amount of land that can be set aside as a resource for climate resiliency and protection from future development. Once this has been established, then create sustainable and legal policy that protects the Salish Sea Ecosystem including all animal, plant and mineral communities.
2. Increase the amount of land for protection to be used in the sequestration of carbon, for aquifer recharging and for the esthetic values that it gives to residents and visitors alike.
3. Promote educational programs that increase tree planting (especially native species), 'no-till' gardening and farming practices, sustainable gardening/farming practices free from pesticides and chemicals, and keeping existing forests intact on 'private' and public land.
4. Use language that is inspirational, concept changing, and that promotes the protection of nature by highlighting the interdependency of humankind and nature.

Thank you for your hard work and consideration of these recommendations from a human member and voice within the Salish Sea. It would be greatly appreciated for an acknowledgement that you have received this communication.

Anne Whirledge-Karp