



SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

135 Rhone Street, PO Box 947, Friday Harbor, WA 98250
(360) 378-2354 | (360) 378-2116 | FAX (360) 378-3922
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MEMO

REPORT DATE: May 17, 2021

TO: San Juan County Planning Commission

FROM: Sophia Cassam, Planner I

SUBJECT: 2021 Annual Docket
Public Comments on Request 21-0003

BRIEFINGS: Planning Commission: May 21, 2021

ATTACHMENTS: A. Public Comments on Docket Request 21-0003

PURPOSE: Transmittal of public comments received to date in support of Docket Request 21-0003 to the Planning Commission.

Sophia Cassam

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 9:07 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: FW: Letter in support of Docket Request 21-0003
Attachments: PCdocketrequestletter2021.pdf

Hi Sophia,

Please see the email below and attachment in regard to the Docket.

Regards,
Lynda

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579
SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

From: joe symons <joesymons@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 15, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Matthew Ellingson <matthewe@sanjuanco.com>; Sheila Gaquin <sheilag@sanjuanco.com>; David Kane <davidk@sanjuanco.com>; Nicholas Knoellinger <nicholask@sanjuanco.com>; Michael Pickett <michaelp@sanjuanco.com>; Dale Roundy <daler@sanjuanco.com>; Steven Rubey <stevenr@sanjuanco.com>; Steve Smith <steves@sanjuanco.com>; Camille Uhlir <camilleu@sanjuanco.com>; Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Cc: Cindy Wolf <cindyw@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: Letter in support of Docket Request 21-0003

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I attach a letter in support of Docket request 21-0003. Please take the time to read some of the links referenced in the request to give yourselves background as to the history of density decisions in San Juan County. I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have with regard to this topic.

Thanks

Joe Symons
Olga
c: 360 378 7577

KeepSanJuansWild.org

From: Joe Symons, Olga WA
To: SJC Planning Commission
Date: 14 May 2021
Re: Docket request 21-0003

I write to request that you support the docket request 21-0003 as your fellow Planning Commission members did in 2000 and again in 2018.

DCD has once again determined that the docket request should be rejected. See: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/22943/2021-Docket-Initial-Briefing-Staff-Report---May-6-2021?bidId=> (page 5)

I request that you look carefully at my docket request which you can read at <http://doebay.net/sunshine/Docketsubmission2021.pdf> . In particular, note the FDO (Final Decision and Order) by the WWGMHB (Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board) excerpt in section one of the docket request. The FDO points out that the county's failure to address this topic led directly to the finding of "substantial interference" which was the criterion for the invalidity order on SJC's CP imposed by the Western Board.

There are precious few individuals who know the history of land use activities in San Juan County. I have lived in the county for about 50 years; I have been an active participant in land use affairs, having been chosen by Council in 1992 to be the chair of the Orcas committee to rewrite the county's comprehensive plan (CP) under the guidance of the state's Growth Management Act (GMA).

I and a few other residents challenged SJC's CP in 1999 as being in egregious violation of GMA; several years of litigation ensued. In almost all cases, SJC lost. A settlement occurred in ~2007 which ended the county's status as being GMA non-compliant.

The elephant in the living room is the undiscussed and, more importantly, unknown population potential currently baked in to the land use density designations for the county. The docket request asks the county to determine this population potential and comment on how this potential meets the county's GMA-mandated Vision Statement.

Comprehensive background information about this topic is available at <http://doebay.net/bigpicture.pdf>, a document created after I gave a presentation to a variety of interested locals, including Cindy Wolf, in January 2021.

Based on the following excerpt from an email to me from Cindy Wolf, one can infer that DCD has at least done a preliminary calculation on this population potential.

Regarding the buildout population (134,000) that I calculated from GDLI data as shown in the excel spreadsheet [summary of information](#), an email from Cindy Wolf, County Council member from District 2 (Orcas/Waldron), dated 10 May 2021, stated:

“Erika explained this to me and that there were few remedies short of vacating the platt and potentially bankrupting the county with lawsuits. Everyone believes you because you are correct. No one seems to know what to do about it. My head is still swimming from figuring this out three weeks ago.”

Note that the buildout calculations shown in the GDLI spreadsheet are based exclusively on SJC data. Such calculations do not reflect any personal bias.

There is no question that this topic puts the county and its residents between a rock and a very hard place. That situation, however, is not grounds for pretending that it doesn't exist.

As you will see, the docket request asks for an impact analysis to show the impact of what this population would have on the county. In addition, the impact of visitors needs to be included.

As residents, we deserve to know the implications of our growth potential on our collective future. We deserve to know whether this growth potential is consistent with the Vision Statement, which is described by SJC as the “north star” of the CP, i.e., upon which the CP and UDC are designed to fulfill. The Vision Statement is the foundation for the plan.

Please take the time to learn more about the evolution of this situation. While no one can know the future in any detail, we deserve to know the likely growth trajectory and its implications for carrying capacity, community values, tax burdens, and our stated desire to become sustainable.

Thank you.

Sophia Cassam

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 9:08 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: FW: I support Docket 21-0003

Hi Sophia,

Please see the email below in regard to the Docket.

Regards,
Lynda

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579 SAN JUAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

-----Original Message-----

From: Jamie Donatuto <jdonatuto@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 8:01 PM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: I support Docket 21-0003

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I believe that a “truth in planning” addition to the comp plan is needed and necessary. I urge you to support it.

Respectfully,
Jamie Donatuto
Full time Orcas Island resident since 2012

Sophia Cassam

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 9:09 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: FW: I support Docket 21-0003

Hi Sophia,

Please see the email below in regard to the Docket.

Regards,
Lynda

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579
SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

From: Naomi Aldort <naomi@aldort.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 10:05 PM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: I support Docket 21-0003

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: SJC planning commission,

Please support the docket request 21-0003 as your fellow Planning Commission members did in 2000 and again in 2018. The vision statement says that these islands are to stay rural and protective of beauty, quiet and the natural environment.

We are already above the residential and tourists capacity to fit the vision statement.

In addition to limited water, our quality of life depends on limited roads, clean air and rural quiet lifestyle. We do not wish to expand any more.

This problem cannot be ignored. The official projection is the destruction of this county. Please support the docket request 21-0003.

Thank you,
Naomi

"Transforming parent-child relationship from reaction and struggle to freedom, power and joy." - Naomi Aldort

To discuss your parenting and other concerns with Naomi: <https://www.naomialdort.com/about-naomi-aldort/parenting-guiding-sessions.html>

Naomi Aldort

Author, Raising Our Children, Raising Ourselves
<https://naomaldort.com>
Parenting Skype/phone-sessions internationally
Facilitator of self-realization through parenting
Piano and classical music lessons
(360)376-3777
POB 1719 Eastsound, WA 98245, USA
naomi@aldort.com

Sophia Cassam

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 9:10 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: FW: I support Docket 21-0003

Hi Sophia,

Please see the email below in regard to the Docket.

Regards,
Lynda

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579
SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

From: David Turnoy <davidgeri@rockisland.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 10:34 PM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: I support Docket 21-0003

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Planning Commission,

I totally support a truth-in-planning document. We need to know how many people our county can hold without degrading the environment and the quality of life.

Thank you,
David Turnoy
Eastsound

Sophia Cassam

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 9:10 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: FW: I support Docket 21-0003

Hi Sophia,

Please see the email below in regard to the Docket.

Regards,
Lynda

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579 SAN JUAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

-----Original Message-----

From: Kiki Roumel <kikiroumel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 6:06 AM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: I support Docket 21-0003

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Friend,

I do not support population growth in San Juan county without a rigorous evaluation of our resources, especially water. With the water table shrinking globally, we need to preserve what we have and prepare to have a lot less. Already when tourists come they use astonishing amounts of water which we as a county cannot afford.

I am not against tourists or against more residents. I want a more inclusive and diverse island population. I just want the growth to be carefully planned so that we do not exacerbate our drought and other resources in scarcity.

Thanks,
Kiki

Kiki Roumel
Orcas Island
503-756-7844

Sophia Cassam

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 9:11 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: FW: I support Docket 21-0003

Hi Sophia,

Please see the email below in regard to the Docket.

Regards,
Lynda

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579
SAN JUAN COUNTY
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(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

From: Gregory Oaksen <gregoaksen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 7:06 AM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: I support Docket 21-0003

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planning Commission,
I am writing to support the Truth in Planning Docket Request. We need to be clear about the implications of the Comprehensive Plan.
Thank you,
Gregory Oaksen
Eastsound

Sophia Cassam

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: FW: Docket request to validate build-out numbers

Hi Sophia,

Please see the email below in regard to the Docket.

Regards,
Lynda

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579
SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

From: jbeeman haller-beeman.com <jbeeman@haller-beeman.com>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 8:32 AM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Cc: mattewe@sanjuanco.com; Sheila Gaquin <sheilag@sanjuanco.com>; David Kane <davidk@sanjuanco.com>; Nicholas Knoellinger <nicholask@sanjuanco.com>; Michael Pickett <michaelp@sanjuanco.com>; Dale Roundy <daler@sanjuanco.com>; Steven Rubey <stevenr@sanjuanco.com>; Steve Smith <steves@sanjuanco.com>; Camille Uhler <camilleu@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: Docket request to validate build-out numbers

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Guernsey,

I would like to support the notion of a better, and public, San Juan County buildout plan. The islands are particularly finite when it comes to transportation, energy, garbage... support of all kinds. Given our ferry-based transportation system, all services are particularly susceptible to limits. Specifically, the notion that the population could grow to 134,000 (plus visitors) is particularly unrealistic. I would strongly support a much lower number and also support a SJC-specific study of island carrying capacity. Please let me know if there is anything the residents of SJC can do to help make this study happen.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Beeman

Sophia Cassam

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 9:39 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: FW: I support Docket 21-0003

Hi Sophia,

Please see the email below in regard to the Docket.

Regards,
Lynda

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579 SAN JUAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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-----Original Message-----

From: Joseph Bettis <joseph@northwestcaptain.com>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 9:26 AM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: I support Docket 21-0003

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We are way over due in obtaining this information so that transparent and democratic decisions can be made.

Sophia Cassam

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 10:23 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: FW: I support Docket 21-0003

Hi Sophia,

Please see the email below in regard to the Docket.

Regards,
Lynda

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579 SAN JUAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Shubert <islandhome61@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 10:02 AM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: I support Docket 21-0003

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

It is of critical importance that the human carrying capacity of humans be realistically calculated. We are an island, surrounded by water and distant from the mainland. We must be able to rely on ourselves and the resources we create to survive the coming catastrophes forecast by global warming and consequent shortages of water, electricity, and food. We must also be very concerned about wells going dry, septic systems overflowing, noisy Air B&B crowds, and noxious living conditions caused by overcrowding. Plus island life has its own pace and level of comfort, which I enjoy and want to keep. I do not want to live in a "Vacation Mecca" filled with tourists, hustle and bustle, crowded recreations and shopping sites. The long term viability of my property is directly contingent on how crowded you allow the island to become. Enough!

Sophia Cassam

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 11:13 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: FW: I support Docket 21-0003

Hi Sophia,

Please see the second email below from Mr. Bettis in regard to the Docket.

Regards,
Lynda

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579 SAN JUAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

-----Original Message-----

From: Joseph Bettis <joseph@northwestcaptain.com>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 10:22 AM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Cc: joe symons <islandstewards@gmail.com>
Subject: I support Docket 21-0003

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Lynda,

Please forward this email to the planning commission:

In support of docket request 21-0003

I urge positive action on this request.

I understand that the request is not supported by the planning department and this is exactly why the request is so important and should be approved.

Planning and development in the islands is moving ahead without direction or control at present. Responsible, thoughtful development and transparent planning are nowhere to be found. Our precious island home is being rapidly destroyed by irresponsible and uncontrolled run-away growth. We need planned and transparent development that preserves our fragile environment and at the same time insures sustainable development.

Please approve docket 21-0003 as a first step in gaining control before it is too late. Transparent practices must begin now.

Joseph Bettis