



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
cdp@sanjuanco.com | www.sanjuanco.com

MEMO

REPORT DATE: September 27, 2021

TO: San Juan County Council

FROM: Sophia Cassam, Planner I

SUBJECT: 2021 Annual Docket Public Hearing
Public Comments

HEARING: September 28, 2021

ATTACHMENTS: A. Public Comment on Docket Request 21-0001 (Commercial Composting)
B. Public Comments on Docket Request 21-0003 (Build-Out Analysis)

PURPOSE: Transmittal of written public comments on the 2021 Docket for the September 28, 2021 County Council public hearing. Comments attached were received between September 14 and 27, 2021.

Sophia Cassam

From: Ande Finley <andefinley@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 4:20 PM
To: Sophia Cassam; Jamie Stephens
Cc: Bob Gerfy; Chom Greacen; Clarissa Mish; Henning Sehmsdorf; Kim Foley; Lafferty, Liz; Michael Moore; Ron Metcalf; Ryan Palmateer; Scott Finley; David Bill
Subject: Amended Letter from Transition Lopez Island Addressing Commercial Composting
Attachments: County Council Letter - 9_14_21 - Amended.pdf

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.

Sophia & Jamie - Attached please find a letter from Transition Lopez island amending our stance on commercial composting.

Thanks!
Ande Finley
for Transition Lopez Island Steering Committee



September 20, 2021

Via Email: sophiac@sanjuanco.com

San Juan County Council
350 Court Street, No. 1
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Dear County Council Members:

On September 7th, we sent a letter addressing four issues on the County's 2021 Annual Docket ("Docket"). We would like to amend our comment on commercial composting on agricultural lands.

Request 21-0001—Commercial composting on farmlands

This request seeks to revise the County Code to authorize the installation of commercial composting facilities on designated Agricultural Resource Lands through a provisional use or conditional use permit. County staff recommend opening up farmlands to commercial composting after completion of the Comprehensive Plan update. In our previous letter, we stated that we disagreed with this recommendation, strongly supporting reserving use of these highly protected and valuable Agricultural Resource Lands solely for agriculture, continuing to allow non-commercial composting consistent with the agricultural activities on those lands.

As we originally stated, we wholeheartedly endorse increased opportunities for both commercial and noncommercial composting in the San Juans. In addition to serving people who don't have the ability to compost at home, commercial-scale composting could help our community transition away from single-use plastics and toward materials that can break down and provide a valuable natural soil amendment/fertilizer. However, we would like to make a distinction between industrial-scale composting as opposed to a small-scale commercial operation, such as Midnight's Farm here on Lopez Island. **Agricultural Resource Lands should not be used for industrial-scale enterprises, including large-scale composting.** The scale at which Midnight's Farm practices composting does not interfere with the intended protection of precious agricultural land.

Thank you again for your attention to these critical matters!

Transition Lopez Island Steering Committee

Ande Finley, Henning Sehmsdorf, Scott Finley, Ron Metcalf, Clarissa Szabados-Mish, Mike Moore, Bob Gerfy, Liz Lafferty, Chom Greacen, Kim Foley, and Ryan Palmateer

Sophia Cassam

From: Karen Hays <swnekeh@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 11:02 AM
To: Council Public Comment
Cc: Sophia Cassam
Subject: Support Symon's Docket Request #21-0003

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September 14, 2021

To San Juan County Council:

We have been property owners and taxpayers on Orcas Island since 1988. We are writing to support Joe Symons' docket request for San Juan County to perform a build-out analysis to study the impact of population growth on our resources and quality of life.

I can think of no other action that the county leaders can take that will address and integrate all of the issues listed so beautifully on the San Juan County Vision and Missions statements. In particular, I draw your attention to the following from the Mission Statement and its Guiding Principles (1997):

- Provide those public services necessary for the health, safety, and general well-being of the citizens [and residents] of San Juan County.
- Strive to **preserve the heritage of the islands**, both environmentally and culturally.
- Conduct the public's business in a manner which is responsive, accessible and open to county citizens
- Encourage a strong local economy consistent with our rural lifestyle
- **Protect our physical environment as our most precious natural resource** [in particular, the limited fresh water resources]

Further down in the Guiding Principles, there are statements about protecting property rights and fostering private property responsibilities. I challenge the County government leaders to undertake a rigorous and thoughtful analysis to discover ways that those principles can align with all the others in such a way that acknowledges that expanding the county's population to over 130,000 would create an unlivable dystopia for humans, plants, and animals alike. Loving the islands to death is not an option.

Please use Joe Symon's request as a challenge to think carefully about what the rest of the century will hold for these precious island jewels of the Salish Sea. As you have probably heard before, **failing to plan is planning to fail**. Don't let San Juan County be the next example used by Harvard Business School to describe "[the tragedy of the commons](#)" in the early 21st century.

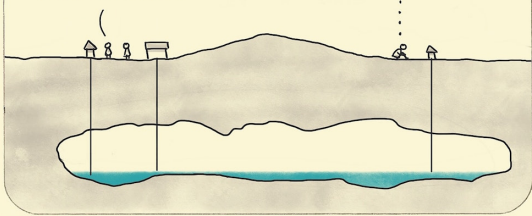
Thank you for your time and attention,
Karen Hays and Scott Norquist
224 Cypress Lane, Olga 98279
360-376-6134

THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS

WHEN SHORT-TERM SELF-INTEREST LEADS TO TRAGEDY FOR ALL

WATER BELONGS TO
ANYONE. I TAKE AS
MUCH AS I WANT

SEEMS THERE'S LESS
AND LESS THESE DAYS



sketchplanations

Sophia Cassam

From: Gregory Oaksen <gregoaksen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 2:22 PM
To: San Juan County Council; Sophia Cassam
Subject: Fwd: Docket 21-0003

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gregory Oaksen <gregoaksen@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 10:20 AM
Subject: Docket 21-0003
To: <council@sanjuanco.com>, <sophiac@sanjuan.com>

Dear Council Members

I am writing in support of Docket request 21-0003 to evaluate the impacts of a build out of San Juan County based on current regulations. I find it astonishing and irresponsible that this has not already been done. How else can you rationally plan for the future?

Thank you for your consideration.

Gregory Oaksen
Orcas Island

Sophia Cassam

From: joe symons <joesymons@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 3:41 PM
To: San Juan County Council; Sophia Cassam
Cc: Brent Lyles; Janet Alderton; Heather Nicholson
Subject: Comments regarding docket 21-0003 submitted in advance before the 28 Sept 2021 Council Meeting
Attachments: Docket 03 CC ltr 23 sept 21.pdf

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 pdf file of my comments to Council re Docket 21-0003. Please distribute to Council and staff.
Thanks

Joe Symons
Olga Wa

KeepSanJuansWild.org

To: San Juan County Council
From: Joe Symons, Olga WA
Date: 23 September 2021
Re: Docket request 21-0003

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my thoughts regarding Docket 21-0003. As you know, "03" requests the county to add essential information to the Comprehensive Plan update currently in process.

San Juan County, comprised exclusively of islands, has transitioned from a century-long stable population of less than 4000 residents to a population over 17,000, i.e., over 4 times larger than its historical average, all in the last 50 years.

The county created its first comprehensive plan in 1979. In 1992, pursuant to the recently enacted Growth Management Act, the county chose to re-write the comp plan under GMA guidance and principles. Citizen committees were chosen to shape the plan; these committees were given broad authority, tho they were prohibited from discussing density. Density refers to the assignment of minimum parcel sizes required for each residence. A discussion of density would have required the calculation of what the buildout potential was, based on the 1979 density designations. Buildout refers to how many residential structures, and thus how many people (at the historical average of 2 people per residence) could live in the county if it were fully developed, i.e., at which point there would be no more land available for residential development.

A buildout analysis would, in its very simplest form, be a calculation of how many people could live in the county when every parcel was subdivided to its maximum legal capacity and a 2 person household were living on it. San Juan County has been asked via docket requests submitted multiple times over the past 20 years to perform such a calculation. The county has consistently refused to do this work.

How much work is involved to "run the density numbers"? Given that all county data is now available in electronic form, calculating the buildout population can be done within a few hours (that would be for understanding the data and preparing the system) and within a few seconds once the "start" button is pressed on the computer. Anyone can obtain the data from the county, as I have done.

The maximum buildout population is over 130,000 should every parcel be developed to its maximum legal potential. The data to make this calculation is available at DCD and has been made available to you and to the public for many weeks. Most recently, the data was submitted to you in my letter of 9 september 2021 and available at <http://doebay.net/sunshine/Docket03lettertoCC.pdf>

It should be noted that the buildout calculations have been made available to county staff, commissions and council for months. No one from any county office has contacted me to challenge, or even ask, about how I derived the buildout population. A reasonable person could assume that by not challenging the numbers, the county has

accepted them. Surely if the county felt the numbers were seriously in error, it would have made some attempt to correct the record. It would appear that rather than challenge my calculations, which would demonstrate that the county knows how to run the numbers and found my work faulty, the county took the strategy of hoping no one else would notice and that I could be marginalized as a sole disgruntled resident who has been pestering the county for years with an inconsequential topic.

County staff, commissions and council have been aware of the request for a buildout analysis since 2000; such an analysis would not only provide a maximum theoretical population, but **assess the impact** of that population: such impacts would include, but not be limited to, taxes, carrying capacity (roads, water, ferries, power, emergency services, housing, etc.), and community values as expressed by the GMA-required Vision Statement.

Given the official docket submissions, the question to be asked is not “what is a buildout analysis?” but “why has the county refused to perform one?” No one can claim they don’t understand what it is. A buildout analysis is not some brand new untested concept, like airbnb, uber, or door dash. It is a fundamental informational component that any competent jurisdiction would have to have in its planning tool box.

We know that DCD must have some idea of what the county’s buildout could be as inferred by the May 10 2021 email from Council member Wolf, describing her conversation with Erika Shook, at that time the head of DCD. Cindy wrote:

“Erika explained this to me and that there were few remedies short of vacating the plat 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.”

The only reasonable explanation for why the county has consistently refused to perform this simple calculation and make it public is that the county *does not want the public to know that it knows what the buildout population potential could be*. Why? Because if the county makes that number public, it would expect a considerable political backlash.

Why would that be? Because the public imagines that what they experience here in the county is how it will “always be”. No one moves here for jobs. The choice to live here is based on its rural qualities, and as the population grows, those qualities, those special energies that draw people here and keep them here, degrade. The process has seemed slow: the analog is the frogs in a pot of cold water that is put on the stove. The process has accelerated in the past few years to the point that the vacation rental visitor increase, a form of increased population, has become too invasive and disruptive to ignore.

As a former council member said, regarding the possible implementation of a vacation rental moratorium, “Why would we impose a moratorium? Then we would have to **do something**.” Docket 03 would, if approved, ask the county to do something that should have been done 30 years ago, something critical for the beneficial future of all living entities in the county.

To claim that it will slow down the completion of the comp plan, now already 6 years overdue, is a red-herring. Yes it might take more time and resources, and yes it is possible, probable, and appropriate that a public/private partnership could be established to fund a professional consultant to assist in coordinating and performing a true buildout and impact analysis.

But more than anything, the point of a BOA/Impact analysis is to ensure that the county’s Comp Plan Vision Statement, the foundation of the plan, it’s “north star” as it is described in the Introduction to the comp plan, isn’t just some sweet-sounding window dressing on a plan that, by refusing to even reveal, much less discuss, the legally baked-in population maximum, is made moot and becomes a mockery of the aspirations and financial/emotional investments that current residents have made with the expectation that the Vision Statement—a required GMA comp plan component—is in fact being operationalized and honored.

Refusing to certify that the Vision Statement is honored by refusing to reveal how unlikely that honoring and respect would be, given the never-discussed density map, is a betrayal of the trust that has been assigned to Council by the residents of the county.

Step one, then, is to simply run the numbers. That will cost the county nothing in terms of time and money. Those numbers must be done soon and made public, showing that the county has the desire and the smarts to do it.

The next step, should the county take 03 seriously, is to work with local stakeholders to craft a true buildout/impact analysis process, involving professional consultants and a public engagement process that fully and honorably provides extensive opportunity to shape the process by which the analysis, its conclusions, and recommendations can be brought into alignment with the Vision Statement **and codified into law**. By so doing, the county avoids the exposure to a GMA Comp Plan challenge regarding inconsistency between the vision statement and the density map implications.

This would be a win win for everyone. This can be done and should be done.

Whether you can or can’t support 03, your official duties and public concerns oblige you to tell us why.

Essential takeaways:

- A buildout analysis would, in its very simplest form, be a calculation of how many people could live in the county when every parcel was subdivided to its maximum legal capacity and a 2 person household were living on it.
- San Juan County has been asked via docket requests submitted multiple times over the past 20 years to perform such a calculation. The county has consistently refused to do this work.
- The work required to simply calculate the maximum buildout population, given the resources available, would take competent staff less than half a day to calculate.
- Preliminary SJC buildout population based on the reasonable use standard (a single family residence or SFR) is over 130,000; this number does not include increases due to ADU's nor does it include the impact of visitors.
- The only reasonable explanation for why the county has consistently refused to perform this simple calculation and make it public is that the county *does not want the public to know that it knows what the buildout population potential could be*. Why? Because if the county makes that number public, it would expect a considerable political backlash.
- The point of a BOA/Impact analysis is to ensure that the county's Comp Plan Vision Statement, the foundation of the plan, it's "north star" as it is described in the Introduction to the comp plan, isn't just some sweet-sounding window dressing, a sugar-coated poison pill.
- By refusing to even reveal, much less discuss, the legally baked-in population maximum, the comp plan is made moot and becomes a mockery of the aspirations and financial/emotional investments that current residents have made with the expectation that the Vision Statement is in fact being operationalized and honored.
- The appropriate means of proceeding with 03 is to work with local stakeholders to craft a true buildout/impact analysis process, involving professional consultants and a public engagement process that fully and honorably provides extensive opportunity to shape the process by which the analysis, its conclusions, and recommendations can be brought into alignment with the Vision Statement and **codified into law**.
- Council must thoroughly and clearly express its reasons for whatever decision it makes regarding docket 21-0003. Comments by Council to date do not meet this standard.

Sophia Cassam

From: Michael Hurwicz <mhurwicz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 8:07 PM
To: Sophia Cassam; San Juan County Council
Subject: Please support 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.

To: San Juan County Council
From: Michael Hurwicz, Eastsound WA
Date: 23 September 2021
Re: Please support docket request 21-0003

Dear San Juan County Council members:

Please perform and publish a buildout analysis to determine a maximum theoretical population, as well as to assess the impact of that population in areas such as taxes, carrying capacity (roads, water, ferries, power, emergency services, housing, etc.), and community values as expressed by the GMA-required Vision Statement.

Please work with local stakeholders to craft a true buildout/impact analysis process, involving professional consultants and a public engagement process that provides extensive opportunity to shape the process by which the analysis, its conclusions, and recommendations can be brought into alignment with the Vision Statement and codified into law.

Thank you,
Michael Hurwicz
(360) 376-5773

Sophia Cassam

From: Naomi Aldort <naomi@aldort.com>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 2:05 PM
To: San Juan County Council; Sophia Cassam
Subject: Support 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.

To: San Juan County Council From:
Naomi Aldort, Eastsound WA
Date: 24 September 2021
Re: Docket request 21-0003

***If we are to keep the vision statement; our commitment to the environment,
rural life, beauty and quiet, then we cannot bow to profit.***

I have lived on Orcas island for 28 years, and saw it moving away from its vision statement, and faster in recent years since Vacation Rentals came to be.

I find the council's fight against the people, by being reluctant to expose issues and take action, revolting. Like the rest of the USA, it seems officials feel obligated to business people and the wealthy at the cost of everything and the majority of the people. If money would be lost, the vision statement can be dumped and quality of life destroyed.

As the population grows, the qualities that draw people here and keep them here, degrade. The process has accelerated in the past few years to the point that the vacation rental visitor increase, a form of increased population, has become too invasive and disruptive to ignore. Many tourists end up residents.

The population of San Juan County, has grown from stable 4000 residents to 17,000, i.e., over 4 times larger than its historical average. If this trends continues, we will see our islands' rural nature destroyed - it already is to a great degree.

Incredibly: The maximum buildout population is over 130,000 should every parcel be developed to its maximum legal potential. The data to make this calculation is available at DCD and has been made available to you and to the public for many weeks. Most recently, the data was submitted to you in Joe Simon's letter Sep. 09, 2021 and available at [http:// doebay.net/sunshine/Docket03lettertoCC.pdf](http://doebay.net/sunshine/Docket03lettertoCC.pdf)

Surely if the officials felt the numbers were seriously in error, it would have made some attempt to correct the record. It would appear that rather than challenge the calculations, officials have chosen the strategy of hoping no one else would notice. We all noticed. We feel the growth already when driving, walking parking... and we know these numbers will destroy these islands.

A buildout analysis is a fundamental informational component that that must be addressed.

The only explanation for why the county has consistently refused to perform this simple calculation and make it public is that the county does not want the public to know that it knows what the buildout population potential

could be. Why? Because if the county makes that number public, it would expect a considerable political backlash. Why would that be? Because the public imagines that what they experience here in the county is how it will “always be”.

Docket 03 would, if approved, ask the county to do something that should have been done 30 years ago, something critical for the beneficial future of all living entities in the county.

The never-discussed density map is a betrayal of the trust that has been assigned to Council by the residents of the county.

The inconsistency between the vision statement and the density map implications must be addressed asap.

Sincerely,
Naomi Aldort
Orcas Island

"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-naomialdort/parenting-guiding-sessions.html>

Naomi Aldort
Author, Raising Our Children, Raising Ourselves
<https://naomialdort.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: A R Weisbrod <weisbrod@rockisland.com>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:24 PM
To: Sophia Cassam
Cc: SJC County Council
Subject: Fwd: Docket 21-0003, buildout/impact request

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Still waiting for your action! Rita Weisbrod

Begin forwarded message:

From: A R Weisbrod <weisbrod@rockisland.com>
Subject: Docket 21-0003, buildout/impact request
Date: 10, September 2021 at 15:32:31 -0700
To: sophiac@sanjuanco.com
Cc: sjccouncil@sanjuanco.com

To the SJC Planning Commission and the County Council:
RE: Docket 21-0003, buildout/impact request

Please act to better align our County Vision with its current actual practice in granting unlimited building in the County. So far we talk a good talk, but I want to insist that we walk the walk as well. Many of us come to live on these islands because they are our idea of an island paradise. How many people can live in paradise before it becomes ruined? Do we want to find out (or have our children find out and blame us for it)? We know we have limited water; all of us are keenly aware of that in this drought year! We know and value the peace and quiet, even when the tourists are here, but especially during the off-season. We advertise to tourists that we are a place of great natural beauty. How long will we remain so if we do not plan for our future? Not long, I believe.

We need careful study by experts of our limitations in both physical and social resources.

I beg you: WALK THE WALK!

Rita R Weisbrod, PhD
141 Frog Song Trail
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

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Phone: 360.378.5460

E-mail: weisbrod@ [rockisland.com](mailto:weisbrod@rockisland.com)

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** leon streamerart.com <leon@streamerart.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2021 1:16 PM  
**To:** Sophia Cassam; San Juan County Council  
**Cc:** leon streamerart.com  
**Subject:** We must support Docket 21-0003!

**Importance:** High

**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 our SJC council members,

San Juan County has been asked via docket requests submitted multiple times over the past 20 years to perform a Buildout/Impact calculation.

The county has consistently refused to do this work. In fact, SJC has consistently refused to even run the numbers, much less conduct an impact study of what those numbers would mean in cost of services, taxes, non-monetary costs, community costs, environmental costs, etc.

Why? Most likely because they do not want the public to know that they know what the maximum legal population might be.

Why not produce these numbers? The most likely reason is due to anticipated enormous political disruption. The point of advancing 03 to be a work component is to illuminate these hidden realities.

**DCD may be overloaded, but to argue against doing this fundamental work, an argument maintained by SJC for 30 years, is far below minimum acceptable standards for a CP, especially one that is in such conflict with the vast majority of residents.**

Sincerely,

Leon Rosenblatt  
Olga, WA

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## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Tracy Oniya <taoniya@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2021 11:36 AM  
**To:** Sophia Cassam  
**Subject:** 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 urge the County Council to put Docket 21-0003 on the work plan for DCD as part of the process for completing the Comprehensive Plan update. This is your job. Please do it. Please give We The People who put you where you are, the transparency & information we need to make informed decisions about our future.

Thank You,  
Tracy Oniya  
Home owner, Orcas

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** John Clancy <jclancy1949@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2021 9:11 AM  
**To:** Sophia Cassam  
**Subject:** 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.

Dear Sophia,

Kindly forward this email to the Council. Thank you kindly.

John Clancy, Orcas

Dear Council Member,

I reiterate my full support for Joe Symons' docket request 21-0003, which requests that the Planning Commission create a "Truth in Planning" component to the Comp Plan. This component would put in layperson's language the implications of our growth potential (e.g. the maximum buildout population) on our collective future. We would become clearly aware of this currently sanctioned buildout population on our county's carrying capacity, on its effects on our taxes and, extremely importantly, its effects on our desire to become a sustainable island culture.

Our species is devouring the world. And should intelligent and caring people like yourselves not make a significant and sustained effort to help the county populace become extremely aware of the impacts of our current trajectory, then we will continue to devour our corner of the world. I imagine that you are all under a great deal of pressure. I ask you, as I ask myself, to make a strong stand and operationalize the Vision Statement, holding that as the standard by which decisions are made. By accepting docket request 21-0003, by integrating its request into the CP, and thus making it easier for islanders to comprehend the effects of our growth, I believe you will experience a collective support for planning activity that embraces and manifests our Vision Statement.

Thank you.

John Clancy  
161 Rosehip Rd  
Eastsound, WA 98245

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Jack Pedigo <pedigojack@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2021 8:04 AM  
**To:** Sophia Cassam  
**Subject:** Docket Request 21-0003

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Honoring our shared vision.

September 24 2021

Why do counties and contractors constantly feel this area is ripe for the pickings and it's full steam ahead for development? Why do these people never seem to take into account externalities and how it affects the local populations? Why does it always seem to be about the economy and not the natural ecology that is the basis for that economy?

My late partner and I bought property on Lopez in 2008. At the time there were four persons living on the property. One daughter married a local and the parents, with a daughter, moved to N. Washington. Two us replaced three and since my partner died now one is living where three once were, so a lowering of the population. We sublet the property for 3 years and moved in in 2011. The existing home was remodeled and, aside from a new 10' X 16' sunroom, we made an effort of replacing a derelict two car garage and mudroom with a new building which stayed in the existing footprint. I installed a water harvesting system in order to preserve the well for emergency use only.

We must desperately look to a truly sustainable growth management plan (constant growth is not sustainable under any circumstance). I would ask, does the county ever take into account such things as the quality of life, ferry service, water availability, forest destruction and a plethora of other resources necessary for sustaining LIFE (writ large) in its plans or is economics the sole concern?

I urge the County Council to put Docket 21-0003 on the work plan for DCD as part of the process for completing the Comprehensive Plan update.

The legal density designations in the county pencil out to a build-out population of over 130,000 *not counting visitors*. Is this so or is there some other vision?

Jack M. Pedigo  
Lopez Island, WA 98261

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** annie crane <annieboonecrane@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2021 1:16 AM  
**To:** Sophia Cassam  
**Subject:** 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 urge the County Council to put Docket 21-0003 on the work plan for DCD as part of the process for completing the Comprehensive Plan update.

Thank you,

Annie B. Crane

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Michael Johnson <mdjishere@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 25, 2021 9:14 AM  
**To:** San Juan County Council  
**Cc:** Sophia Cassam  
**Subject:** Regarding 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.

My name is Michael Johnson. I live on Orcas Island.

I write to support Council in reversing the Planning Commission determination that Docket Request 21-0003 not be advanced to be part of the work order before DCD and the county. Docket 21-0003 represents a minimum standard that should be implemented prior to the completion of the Comprehensive Plan (CP) update.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully, Michael Johnson, Orcas Island

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** liddlelesley <liddlelesley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 26, 2021 6:24 PM  
**To:** Sophia Cassam  
**Cc:** council@sanjuancounty.com  
**Subject:** Support buildout/impact component

**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 support the Buildout/impact component to the county's comprehensive plan. Please respect and protect our islands and their rural character. I take the position expressed by Joe Symons in his recent letter.

Thank you  
Lesley Liddle  
Orcas island

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Cindi Lund <cindilund56@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2021 2:15 PM  
**To:** Sophia Cassam  
**Subject:** 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.

Dear Planning Department,

Please include a Truth in Planning statement in the Comprehensive Plan. People need to know the truth. The islands have limited resources and house unique and fragile natural ecosystems. The effects of climate change may be worsened by population growth. I am especially concerned about water. From what I understand, underground fresh water supplies are limited. We must be very careful to keep the population at a level that our water supplies can sustain. Another concern, of course, is the ferry system which can barely handle the population we have now. It seems like building permits must be restricted to control population growth.

Thank you for your attention,  
Cindi Lund, Lopez Island

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** san olson <sanolson80@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2021 1:42 PM  
**To:** Sophia Cassam  
**Subject:** 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 urge the County Council to put Docket 21-0003 on the work plan for DCD as part of the process for completing the Comprehensive Plan update.

I will make this brief. Concerning a build out analysis, it is foolish to not know what the potential number of residents the county would ultimately have if all lots were occupied. If we do not know where we are today and where we could end up, we cannot manage growth intelligently. If we just want to cruise along, that means we are no longer in charge of our destiny. Please fully discuss and explore Docket # 21-0003. Lets [plan our future together.

San Olson, Lopez Island

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Marian O'Brien <marian@bokubooks.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2021 12:29 PM  
**To:** San Juan County Council; Sophia Cassam  
**Subject:** Support 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.

We urge the County Council to put Docket 21-0003 on the work plan for DCD as part of the process for completing the Comprehensive Plan update.

Due diligence must be done on verifying density and capacity. San Juan County is not situated for density and capacity calculations done for the mainland.

Our remote nature and lack of ability to receive timely support from neighboring municipalities for natural and man-made disaster such as fire, as well as challenging terrain make unfettered tourism, dense residential build-out and population increase not defensible here in San Juan County.

This real danger calls for the utmost, extreme governmental consideration in land management practices.

Marian O'Brien  
Keith Whitaker

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** jp drvandongen.com <jp@drvandongen.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** San Juan County Council  
**Cc:** Sophia Cassam; annette drvandongen.com  
**Subject:** Docket 21-0003 consideration on Sept 28th 2021

**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 County Council Members,

Ice hockey star Wayne Gretzky famously said, “**I skate to where the puck is going, not where it has been.**” A Comp Plan needs to do the same to be successful. Knowing where we are headed, even the outside possibility of that trajectory, is essential for the Comprehensive Plan of San Juan County.

Please include Docket 21-0003 in planning our future.

Yours respectfully,

John Pierre van Dongen  
Home: (360) 376 5708  
Cell: (239) 777 3652  
Orcas Island.

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Michael Riordan <mriordan137@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2021 10:41 AM  
**To:** Council Public Comment  
**Cc:** Sophia Cassam; Cindy Wolf  
**Subject:** 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 County Commissioners,

At your meeting tomorrow, I urge the Council members to add Docket #21-0003 to the work plan for the Department of Community Development and Planning.

In order to have a credible Comprehensive Plan, it is essential that the County have a reasonable estimate of the potential buildout of these limited islands. At present we do not. The only number I have seen floated — 134,000 properties — can only be considered laughable in light of current realities, most notably the limited ferry service (which I'm told by knowledgeable experts) is not going to improve for at least a decade, if ever. The real number is closer to 34,000, including summer visitors, as we learned this past year.

And according to a comment in the Orcasonian by Elisabeth Britt, the County is REQUIRED by RCW 36.70A.070 to "take ferry capacity into consideration when planning for future growth of each island." Just imagine what would happen on Waldron Island if ferry capacity to that island (equals ZERO) were not taken into account in its growth projections. A similar consideration must apply to the County as a whole.

Please do the responsible thing and include Docket #21-0003 on the DCD's work plan.

Respectfully, Michael Riordan  
Treasurer, View Haven Estates  
Secretary, Friends of the San Juans

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**Michael Riordan**  
Physicist/Author  
106 Hilltop Lane  
Eastsound, WA 98245

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** annie crane <annieboonecrane@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2021 10:34 AM  
**To:** Sophia Cassam  
**Subject:** 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 urge the County Council to put Docket 21-0003 on the work plan for DCD as part of the process for completing the Comprehensive Plan update.

Annie B. Crane  
Orcas Island