

Sophia Cassam

From: Gregory Kramer <gregory@metta.org>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 11:42 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Vacation rental input from Gregory Kramer for May 17 meeting

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Dear Friends at San Juan Country who are contemplating the future of vacation rentals,

Vacation rentals have seen an explosion here on Orcas. Many are managed by non-resident corporations, and certainly many by non-resident individuals who have no true investment in the community, the ecosystem, or even their immediate neighbors. This has caused the quality of life in the county to suffer. Specifically:

- Fresh water is becoming an issue and will get worse with climate change
- Vacationers generate a excessive garbage, stressing the recycle and removal facilities
- Ferry reservations are very difficult or impossible to get
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- Land and housing values are becoming prohibitively high for local residents
- Health care system is stressed, exacerbating already insufficient services
- Parking in retail areas is becoming aggressively competitive
- Community care and values are not supported and sustained by transient population, and taxes are opposed because such people—the owners—do not invest in nor directly benefit from schools and so on.

We cannot grow enough to accommodate the demand for vacation rentals and the services and resources they requite. Please recall the finite nature of island resources. Critical shortages and limits are causing dangerous or unpleasant conditions.

Please cap the number of Short Term "Vacation" Rental permits at the July, 2021 level of "Active and Compliant" permits. Your residents are depending on you.

Thank you,

Gregory and Martha Kramer
Full time residents at 414 John Jones Road
Orcas, WA 98280