

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Heather Nicholson <heatherfold@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2022 7:39 PM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** VR comments for council meeting 5.17.22

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Dear Council members,

I want us to slow down on vacation rentals in SJ county. I'm not saying there should be no VRs here, just slow down and rethink. VR proliferation, and tourism in general, has not been managed to suit residents of the county as a whole and it now weighs negatively on even those who would be part of a moderate and well run industry here. One that should not bear so many negative impacts on those who live here.

It is unreasonable to expect residents to bear the brunt of mitigating for VR tourism in our home neighborhoods and in public places. To be expected to call the sheriff's office with VR noise complaints, to be tailgated by speeders, surrounded by non-stop traffic, roads that are beginning to sound like I-5. It should not fall on the shoulders of residents to have to experience and handle these disruptions. It is unwise planning to permit such a disproportionate number of VRs that it becomes impossible for residents to live here and then design crammed low income housing and ever-increasing density.

In many parts of the county, there are hardly any quiet moments anymore. The roar of traffic, airplanes and equipment is incessant. Too many VRs are making it worse. We can have a quiet rural good quality of life here. We can make a living. Let's work on a diverse economy. We should have an economy in which there are attractive options other than catering to VRs and tourism. Let's work on a truly equitable economy that doesn't destroy the environment, neighborhoods and peace and quiet. This archipelago is precious. There's an incredible amount of time and resources being put into trying to make nature whole again. Please be aware and respect that work, and don't destroy what's left. Development and climate disruption are creating an uphill battle. An over abundance of VRs is not a requirement, not wise, and it runs counter to costly restorative efforts and to what a substantial portion of residents want. I don't view this as a divisive issue. Just one that requires consideration beyond real estate and tax dollars.

Best regards,  
Heather Nicholson

San Juan Isl.