

Brooke Sullivan

From: Michelle E. Loftus <meloftus@centurytel.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 1:59 PM
To: Brooke Sullivan
Subject: Re: Don't change SJC Rural Character for Solar Farms

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24-0007 and 24-0008
Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 20, 2024, at 9:35 AM, Brooke Sullivan <brookes@sanjuancountywa.gov> wrote:

Hi Michelle,

I am working to get all the comments on the annual docket to the commissioners today. Can you please let me know what docket number(s) I should apply this comment to?

Regards,

Brooke K. Sullivan, PhD | *Environmental Planner IV*
360-370-7588 | brookes@sanjuancountywa.gov | Working Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm, Tuesday – Friday

From: meloftus@centurytel.net <meloftus@centurytel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 11:44 AM
To: Brooke Sullivan <brookes@sanjuancountywa.gov>
Subject: Don't change SJC Rural Character for Solar Farms

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SJC Planning Commission,

Please reject the two recent OPALCO requests for changes of land use in the SJC Comprehensive Plan. I find OPALCO's tactics deceiving, offensive and only self serving to their narrow minded board.

OPALCO's statement for this request misrepresents the fact that Bonneville Power delivers reliable, affordable and carbon free HYDROPOWER to communities across the Northwest. OPALCO is fear mongering a crisis for their agenda.

The rural character of SJC is described as a jewel, an oasis and a retreat for many. Building solar farms across designated agriculture and forest resource land is exactly what the Comprehensive Plan protects against. SJC has 174 sq miles of land. The rest is covered by water. To request 63% of this to be open for Utility Uses is an absurd reach. That's 109 sq miles that has been designated for the specific intent of agriculture and forest production because Islanders love living near SJC beauty not solar farms.

Solar farms are a threat to SJC wildlife. The lake effect of large solar panel installations kills birds by burning. Observers call them "streamers" as they ignite and fall to the ground dead. No one but OPALCO thinks this is a good or humane look for SJC.

OPALCO needs to concentrate on promoting smaller installations on existing buildings which would require no land use changes.

Michelle Loftus DVM
25 Boyce Road
Friday Harbor, WA
San Juan Island