

ATTACHMENT A: COUNTY COUNCIL VISION AMENDMENTS

June 11, 2018

1 **PREAMBLE**

2 **WE THE PEOPLE**, citizens of San Juan County, value our healthy natural environment, vibrant and diverse
3 community, self-sufficiency, interdependence, privacy, personal freedom, independence, and
4 stewardship of our common resources ~~recognize that these rural islands are an extraordinary treasure~~
5 ~~of natural beauty and abundance, and that independence, privacy and personal freedom are values~~
6 ~~prized by islanders.~~ These rural islands are an extraordinary treasure: as a community ~~Being a diverse~~
7 ~~people~~ bound together by these shared values, we declare our commitment to work towards this vision
8 of the San Juan Islands in 2020 A.D.

9 **COMMUNITY** We envision a community that is primarily rural, made up of islands of varying character,
10 each with its own unique qualities. The islands are places of peace and mutual tolerance, where ~~citizens~~
11 people of differing backgrounds and beliefs respect each other's dignity, privacy, and freedoms. We
12 communicate effectively and openly and work together toward goals identified as being for the common
13 good. We foster a sense of neighborliness, of self-sufficiency, and community pride that has long been a
14 part of our island character.

15 **GOVERNANCE** We are self-governed by informed citizens. We are ~~equally~~ represented by elected officials
16 who conduct the activities of government in an ethical, fair, impartial, responsive and open manner ~~which~~
17 that recognizes the independent, self-reliant nature of its people ~~citizens~~. Our elected officials and
18 government institutions lead, communicate and collaborate with regional partners in areas of mutual
19 interest. Our government institutions balance responsibility with resources and costs, consolidate
20 services where practical, manage prudently, provide reliable data, are service-oriented, and perform in a
21 timely manner.

22 **BASIC HUMAN NEEDS** Our islands are places where ~~all citizens~~ people are safe ~~can safely walk or play, day~~
23 ~~and~~ ~~or~~ ~~night.~~ The drinking water supply is clean, ~~and~~ adequate, and conserved as a vital resource. Health
24 care and help in time of need are accessible and affordable. Making a life here is not limited by lack of
25 access to basic human needs. ~~The supply of affordable housing is adequate to meet the needs of our~~
26 ~~diverse population.~~

27 **HOUSING** Adequate, safe, affordable and stable housing helps our community thrive. There are diverse
28 housing types and we use innovative strategies to meet the various housing needs of our community.

29 **EDUCATION** Learning is a continuing lifelong process ~~which~~ that is encouraged and aided by the
30 community. A partnership of families and community creates a supportive and challenging educational
31 environment founded on academic excellence and artistic expression. This ~~educational~~ environment
32 produces ethical, self-directed, compassionate, responsible world citizens, alive with the love of learning.

33 **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT** Our islands and marine waters have exceptional natural beauty and healthy,
34 diverse ecosystems that are ~~surrounded by~~ pollution-free ~~marine waters.~~ The air is fresh and clean, the
35 water quality is excellent, and the soil is uncontaminated. As careful stewards of these islands and waters,
36 we conserve resources, preserve open space, and take appropriate action to assure healthy land and
37 marine environments. We recognize the integral role that forests play in the stewardship of our air, soils
38 and water resources. The natural environment is central to the ecological health, quality of life, and the
39 economy in the islands. Native plants, ~~and~~ animals, and marine life of the islands thrive, and are identified,
40 appreciated and conserved.

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1 **ENERGY AND RESOURCES** Our community ~~is~~ strives for energy independence and zero waste fosters
2 resource and energy conservation. Energy independence is encouraged. We use renewable energy,
3 materials, and natural resources on a sustainable basis. Recycling, ~~s~~Solid waste, and sewage treatment
4 are managed within the confines of each island in an environmentally sound manner. Renewable natural
5 resources are used on a sustainable basis. Nonrenewable resources are conserved wherever possible and
6 practical.

7 **CLIMATE CHANGE** Our community sets an example with its response to climate change. We prepare to
8 address the negative effects in advance before they become crises. Our community encourages
9 voluntary efforts and enacts incentives and regulations if necessary to reduce our carbon footprint.

10 **ECONOMY** We support a diverse, resilient, and sustainable economy while respecting the natural world.
11 ~~pattern of economic growth and development which~~ This economy serves the needs of our community,
12 and ~~which~~ recognizes the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural, marine and isolated nature of the islands.
13 Our economy comprises a wide spectrum of stable, year-round activities that provide employment for
14 islanders wages that allow islanders to live, work, and thrive locally. ~~We support and encourage traditional~~
15 ~~industries including forestry, farming, aquaculture, construction, fishing and tourism without jeopardizing~~
16 ~~the resources on which they depend. We have home occupations and cottage industries which are~~
17 ~~compatible with surrounding neighborhoods.~~ We encourage new ideas and new technology for improving
18 the quality and profitability of our goods and services. ~~Value-added activities are encouraged.~~
19 ~~Environmental conservation and sustainable development are balanced.~~ Communication systems support
20 our economy.

21 **AGRICULTURE** The San Juan Islands have a rich agricultural heritage that remains culturally and
22 economically significant. We invest resources to ensure that agricultural lands are preserved and to
23 maintain and enhance agricultural viability. We recognize the integral role that agriculture plays in the
24 stewardship of our soils and water resources. Diverse agricultural activities are essential to the health and
25 well-being of our community, contributing to the social, economic and environmental fabric of our islands.

26 **LAND USE** Neighborhoods, hamlets, villages, and towns, and other activity centers are clearly defined so
27 as to conserve, rural, agricultural, forest, mineral resource and environmentally sensitive lands and critical
28 areas. These areas define our heritage and sense of place: provide providing for commerce and
29 community activities without losing their small scale and attractive island ambiance. There is housing for
30 people of all incomes. The unique character of our shorelines is protected by encouraging uses ~~which that~~
31 maintain or enhance the quality health of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use
32 strategies, our citizens and institutions balance and protect private property rights, public rights, and our
33 natural environment.

34 **TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION** We have water, land, and air transportation systems
35 commensurate with our island culture. ~~On island circulation is by means of a system of scenic rural roads~~
36 ~~with automobile, bicycle and pedestrian ways functioning without conflict. In some places, the roads are~~
37 ~~unpaved, narrow, and winding, and care is taken to maintain a rustic quality in public signs.~~ Transportation
38 plans carefully consider multimodal transportation, and rural character. Expansion or ~~new~~ construction
39 of ~~basic public~~ transportation systems, infrastructure, and facilities occurs only based on the basis of
40 demonstrated local public need. Advanced interactive communication systems are infrastructure is
41 encouraged.

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1 **ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION** Our community nurtures the expression of its creative talents and
2 supports diverse cultural and entertainment activities. Our cultural facilities such as libraries, museums,
3 and theaters are focal points of activity and community support. Well-managed parks, trails, and shoreline
4 access, where appropriate, provide islanders with recreation with due regard for both the rights of private
5 property owners and the natural limitations of each site.

6 **HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION** Our community is enriched by a strong sense of identity,
7 tradition, legacy, and continuity, where past and present freely mingle. We recognize the contributions to
8 our rural and maritime heritage made by indigenous peoples, explorers, and island pioneers, ~~and. We~~
9 encourage the preservation of that our heritage, ~~We encourage preservation of historic sites, structures,~~
10 and traditions for the enjoyment of all.

11 **OUR COMMITMENT: AS FORTUNATE CITIZENS OF THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS, WE COMMIT** ourselves
12 individually and communally to a future for ourselves and our children that reflects this vision. ~~To this~~
13 end, we, the undersigned individuals dedicate our time and our talents.