

Thursday Oct 21st



A MESSAGE FROM

San Juan County Land Bank

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## LAND BANK REPORT ON COMMUNITY DISCUSSION



**Submitted by Kaj Litch**

The final report of public feedback to the San Juan County Land Bank using an innovative method to garner public opinion has just been released.

Using the digital tool Pol.is throughout July 2021, more than 400 community members

put forth and addressed issues of local importance regarding the local Land Bank, bringing direct community input to the processes they fund.

Specific issues with regard to the Land Bank were addressed as well as general questions that were raised about where conservation efforts should be focused and how policy should be formed to best serve the community and environment. The report addresses the opinion data gathered on Land Bank governance, land management, and acquisitions and discusses areas of community consensus around organizational transparency and community responsiveness, preservation and public access, and property management. These areas of strong consensus fit directly into the Land Bank's next step to improve the organization, its conservation programs, and its partnerships with our island community.

Kaj Litch, of the [Computational Democracy Project](#), says, "The enthusiastic participation of the island community reflects the local importance, continued impact, and resulting accountability of the Land Bank to the people of San Juan County. Through this engagement, the public has spoken, and the Land Bank is listening. This is participatory democracy in our community."

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend [Land Bank Commission meetings](#) on the third Friday of each month. Access the full report is at [sjlandbank.org/pol-is-community-discussion/](http://sjlandbank.org/pol-is-community-discussion/). If you have any questions, please email Kaj Litch at [kajlitch@gmail.com](mailto:kajlitch@gmail.com).



## Upcoming Events

### [Pop Up StoryWalk™](#)

October 24 - November 30

Zylstra Lake Preserve

### [POP UP StoryWalk™ Live Reading](#)

Saturday, November 5

10am

Zylstra Lake Preserve

### [Monthly Land Bank Commission Meeting](#)

Friday, November 19

8:30am to 11:30am

Virtual Meeting

## About the Land Bank

The San Juan County Land Bank is a local land conservation program, created by voters in 1990, and funded by a 1% real estate excise tax paid by purchasers of property in San Juan County. Through conservation easements or outright purchases, the Land Bank protects special places in the Islands including coastlines, farmland, forests and wetlands. For more information, contact the Land Bank at 360-378-4402 or visit [sjclandbank.org](http://sjclandbank.org).

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