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Parks & Environmental Services
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June 28, 2019

File: 5220-30
18-1949 Gardom Pond

North Pender Island Local Trust Committee
c/o Islands Trust
200-1627 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8R 1H8
via email: information@islandstrust.bc.ca

Dear North Pender Island Local Trust Committee:

RE: GARDOM POND DAM SAFETY AND RISK REDUCTION

Thank you for your letter dated June 24, 2019 requesting that the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board halt modifications to Gardom Pond. On behalf of the CRD Board, I appreciate the concerns being raised by the community about the potential climate impacts of dam modifications.

As you are aware, dams within the Province of British Columbia are regulated under the *Water Sustainability Act* and its related *Dam Safety Regulation*. Gardom Pond has been classified as a “high downstream failure consequences” dam and a failure could have major consequences, from injury or loss of life to significant economic, property and environmental impacts.

Pursuant to an Engineer's Order received from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the CRD has initiated remedial efforts to drawdown/naturalize the pond, in agreement with the six Water License Holders. By Order, this work must be completed by September 30, 2019. The naturalization plan will return the pond to its original condition in a controlled manner and re-establish an outlet at the original discharge stream bed. The basin will continue to hold water at approximately 1-2 meters deep, the existing road (Gardom Lane) will be maintained and any resulting exposed shoreline will be revegetated. A considerable amount of water will remain in the pond for local firefighting purposes.

These immediate-risk reduction efforts are required to protect the downstream Razor Point community and to relieve the six water license holders of their responsibility and liability to own, maintain and operate the dam. Many of the current owners have endured significant hardship for over a decade dealing with risks associated with the dam. The remedial work at Gardom Pond must continue to protect the public from injury and loss of life in the event of a failure of the dam.

Further comments on this project can be found on the webstream video of the CRD Board meeting held June 12 at http://crd.ca.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=1490
- view Item 5.8 19-515 CRD Climate Action – 2018 Reports.

The CRD Board will continue to take a leadership role in advancing climate adaptation efforts and supports the Islands Trust Council's recent declaration of a climate emergency.

Sincerely,



Larisa Hutcheson, P. Eng.
General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services

LH/JF:cam/cl

cc: Capital Regional District Board Members
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Bill & Bev Hughes, Water License Holder, bhughes@shaw.ca
Kent & Gloria Allan, Water License Holder, kgallan@shaw.ca
Steil's Estate, Water License Holder, c/o nikki@browneassociates.ca
T. Chantler & K. Lightman, Water License Holder, tchantler@shaw.ca
and kathleenlightman@shaw.ca
Norman Twa, Water License Holder, tw23@shaw.ca
Gardom Pond Park, Water License Holder, c/o Tom Bell, PIPRC Chair,
dthbell52@gmail.com