



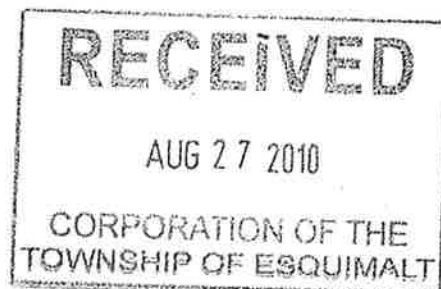
The Best Place on Earth

Reference: 128744

AUG 25 2010

Her Worship Mayor Barbara Desjardins  
 Township of Esquimalt  
 1229 Esquimalt Rd  
 Esquimalt BC V9A 3P1

Dear Mayor ~~Desjardins~~ Barb.



Thank you for meeting with me on August 4, 2010, to discuss the Capital Regional District (CRD) Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP). I appreciated the opportunity to discuss this matter with you.

On June 23, 2010, the CRD Board approved Amendment #8 to the Core Area LWMP and submitted it to me for consideration. The plan outlined in Amendment #8 is intended to be an evolution and refinement that takes advantage of staging opportunities to optimize costs and configuration in meeting the overall treatment objectives. It is also intended to provide a practical, cost-effective system that incorporates currently viable resource recovery innovations and facilitates future resource recovery opportunities.

The design and environmental impact assessment studies carried out by the CRD conclude that the McLoughlin Point site is suitable for the proposed use. The site size has been determined by engineering studies commissioned by the CRD to be adequate for the proposed treatment equipment. There is no present intent to increase the facility capacity in the future. The plan provides an opportunity to economically re-develop an existing industrial site, minimizing the potential for disruption of natural and archaeological resources. The site is relatively buffered from commercial and residential developments. The CRD recognizes the need to ensure that potential noise and odour concerns are addressed in design and that the facility be designed to visually complement its location. Indeed, there are tangible examples of facilities meeting these objectives. The CRD also recognizes the need for the design and elevation of the facility to address any potential issues related to storms, tsunamis, earthquakes and sea levels rising.

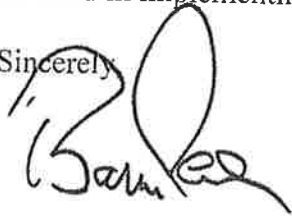
While I understand and respect your concerns, the selection of McLoughlin Point by the elected officials of the CRD follows over four years of planning, engineering, consultation and environmental assessments. The CRD reports they have investigated over 114 sites through seven communities and undertaken 15 major studies into resource recovery opportunities at an estimated cost of \$12.94 million. As such, I believe that after four years of planning and study, it is time to move forward on the basis of the plan as presented rather than await further study.

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With respect to consultation, the CRD has been conducting a public involvement program since 2006, and a sewage treatment facility at either McLoughlin or McCauley Point has been contemplated throughout the process. In addition to the engagement with Esquimalt residents to date through public meetings, mail outs, media and internet, the CRD recognizes the need to continue to engage the residents of Esquimalt and other Core Area communities as they move forward in the coming months.

The intention of a LWMP is that it be a living plan that evolves as opportunities arise. A decision on Amendment #8 now does not preclude further refinement of the plan should new opportunities be identified. I encourage you to continue to engage your colleagues at the CRD if you believe it is appropriate to propose further refinements to the plan as the CRD moves forward in implementing treatment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Penner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the top.

Barry Penner  
Minister