



Making a difference...together

Environmental Sustainability

625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000
Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 2S6

T: 250.360.3078

F: 250.360.3079

www.crd.bc.ca

17 March 2011

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Mayor Barb Desjardins
Township of Esquimalt
1229 Esquimalt Road
Victoria, BC V9A 3P1

Dear Mayor Barb Desjardins,

**RE: CORE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROJECT – COMMUNITY BENEFITS
FRAMEWORK REPORTS**

Thank you for your letter of February 16, 2011 and note that the Township of Esquimalt is in favour of providing community benefits.

In general, the views expressed by a consultant are those of the consultant and its interpretation of the information. Capital Regional District (CRD) staff may not necessarily agree with the consultant's interpretation or characterization of that information. In response to what you have characterized as discrepancies, we are providing the following comments.

1. The setting of a precedent by establishing a community amenities fund.

In the two alternatives (Alternatives 2 and 3) from the staff report that supports providing communities amenities funding, it was recommended that a community amenities fund be established for host municipal councils to determine how the community fund allocations will be spent. This was not the case with Hartland landfill. In that case, surplus land to the landfill needs was used to establish Mount Work Regional Park for the benefit of all CRD residents, not just for the benefit of the District of Saanich. The District of Saanich also contributed 50 acres for a regional park and has agreed not to develop property east of the land fill (buffer area) as part of mitigation for the landfill. Establishing the regional park was not at the discretion of the District of Saanich. The staff report suggests that establishing a community amenities fund could set a precedent for future similar facilities built, owned and operated by the CRD and that remains the case as such a fund has never before been established.

Consequently, we do not see any contradiction between the consultant's report and the staff report when they are considered in context.

2. The common practice of providing community amenities.

The statement on page 2 of the staff report has been misquoted. The correct quotation is as follows: *"There are only a few examples where jurisdictions have provided a community amenity fund for municipalities hosting major wastewater facilities as outlined in Table 2 of the attached report (Page 11)."*

Table 2 of the consultant's report clearly demonstrates that there are 'only a few examples' where jurisdictions have provided a community benefit fund.

Again the CRD staff report is consistent with the Westland Resource Group's report.

Mayor Barb Desjardins – 16 March 2011

Core Area Wastewater Treatment Program – Community Benefit Framework Reports

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3. Impact of below ground land use or loss of land use.

The following provides the staff report quotation in its entirety: *“The below-ground components of the project include pipelines, tunnels and outfalls. These components typically have minimal or no long-term social, financial or environmental impacts on the community, particularly if the pipelines are buried under roadways”.*

The following provides the Westland report quotation in its entirety: *“Typical local impacts include noise (particularly from transportation facilities), limitations on land uses (in the case of reservoirs or pipeline easements.”*

It is the practice of the CRD to install pipelines in roadways and to avoid easements whenever possible. If an easement is required, the land owner will be compensated for the loss of use of the land. This will be the case with the wastewater treatment project.

Again we see no contradiction between the staff and the Westland reports.

I hope we have clarified any misunderstanding you may have had as to contradictions between the two reports.

Please give me a call if you require further clarification in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Blackwell". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "D" and a flourish at the end.

Denise Blackwell
Chair, Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee

JAH:hr