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March 4, 2014

Seaterra 0220-20

Chair Alastair Bryson
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Dear Chair Bryson,

The Seaterra Commission has been working diligently to implement the sewage treatment program for the core area municipalities, in line with the appointment of the commission in March 2013, and working toward a completion date of 2018. Initial projects are already under construction (e.g. Craigflower pump station), others are in the design phase. Service contracts have been signed for many of the services that are required to support the project (archaeological services, an improved SCADA system, communications, engineering support, procurement support, legal services etc.). Other contracts are pending assessment or signing.

In short, Seaterra has started the implementation of the program and has been poised to begin the program in earnest for some months with the award of the McLoughlin wastewater treatment plant. However, while many aspects of the program have been put in a state of readiness, we realize that a variety of bylaw issues needed to be resolved by the Capital Regional District (CRD) in partnership with hosting municipalities. We appreciated that this has been particularly true in the Township of Esquimalt. Given this, we were forced to delay proceeding for several months, while negotiations between the CRD and the municipality continue. We understood that significant progress was being made and although several deadlines were missed, it was hoped by both parties that an agreement could be reached in a timely fashion. However, the final target date for conclusion of February 24, 2014 has again come and gone, and we understand the new target date set by Esquimalt is April 7, 2014.

Given that there seems to be an irreconcilable gulf between the parties, and that timely conclusion is appearing more and more remote, we respectfully suggest that the CRD consider moving this issue to a forum where a resolution can be reached. We completely understand that this is a decision for the CRD, and not the Seaterra Commission, so wish only to highlight that we will not be able to achieve the mandate the CRD Board has given us with these ongoing delays. The Commission very much wants to achieve the implementation of a successful, modern sewage treatment program, and looks to you for assistance in finding a way to move forward.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Eaton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Brenda Eaton
Chair, Seaterra Program Commission