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April 29, 1999

Mr. Frank Towler
Central Saanich West Voters Association
C/o 629 Senanus Drive
Saanichton, B.C. V8M 1S6

Dear Mr. Towler:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 26 on behalf of the Central Saanich West Voters Association concerning the water quality in the area of Mt. Newton and Senanus Drive and seeking an opportunity to address the Board of Directors of the Capital Health Region on this issue.

Before responding to your request, it is important to set out the role of the Capital Health Region on this issue. Under current legislation that role is limited to advocating on behalf of the citizens of the Region. Additionally, the Medical Health Officer of the Region has authority to investigate complaints and may also issue an order for termination of a health hazard. However, such correction orders are limited to individual homeowners and are not binding on municipal governments. The authority of the Medical Health Officer is restricted to advocating on behalf of citizens to municipalities and upon request, the Medical Health Officer may provide advice to the municipalities.

If a complaint is brought to the Capital Regional District (CRD) as the Local Board of Health, the CRD may order an individual to connect to the public water system if it is already at the property line of the homeowner. The CRD cannot require a municipality to extend a water line to allow a homeowner the opportunity to connect to the public water system.

Regarding your specific issue, I am advised that a Steering Committee comprised of interested and affected parties has been formed to investigate, evaluate and make recommendations to Central Saanich Council. I also understand that Central Saanich West Voters Association has a representative on this committee. The Capital Health Region staff will be commencing a water-sampling program next week and a Public Health Engineer and CHR staff will evaluate the results. As well, a groundwater hydrologist hired by the District of Central Saanich, in conjunction with the Steering