

Sept. 7, 2000

To: The Mayor and Council
Municipality of Central Saanich

Re: Opposition to proposed water pipeline to Senanus Drive

I wish to express my opposition to the proposed water pipeline along Mt. Newton Cross Road to the Senanus Drive area. I am the owner of nearby property at 8325 West Saanich Road. We have had considerable difficulty with the well and have recently installed a costly filter and ultraviolet treatment system, and there is still the problem of very limited supply. However, I remain in opposition to the pipeline. The problems described by the residents of Senanus Drive as described seem less serious. We have dealt with our well water problems without help from the municipality and without tax dollars, so can they. You can be sure that, if this pipeline proceeds, I and others with water difficulties will seek equal treatment with similar pipeline access. This proposal thus opens the likelihood of large ongoing expenditures.

The proposed pipeline is opposed to the Central Saanich Community Plan. This area is zoned rural residential estates, clearly defined as no services. The Community Plan was well considered and required much effort and cost. I know that many in the current council have worked hard on it. One of the functions of a community plan is to avoid strong special interest groups getting special treatment. If there is to be additional extension of services, there must be a complete Plan review and consideration of what services and what area should get first priority.

I was very impressed by the very careful and thorough study done by the taskforce that studied the question of the need for the pipeline. From it I conclude that a pipeline is not necessary and is undesirable. I note that the proponents tried to use health hazard as an argument. That this argument proved to be unfounded certainly has reduced their creditability. If there is a problem, they can deal with it as we have. I have seen no evidence that they have undertaken or even seriously considered any of the options proposed by the taskforce.

It has been proposed that some of the costs would come from a "grant", as if grants were free. Grants come from tax dollars just like any other tax expenditure, whether they are Federal, Provincial or Municipal. Strong cases have been made for more funds to our two largest tax expenditure items, Medicare and education. Are you prepared to have significant tax dollars directed to a very small group that comes from the wealthiest part of our municipality, rather than directing them to medicine and education?

My main concern is that the pipeline will lead to the long term loss of our most beautiful Mt. Newton valley. I am confident that the current council will not allow this to happen, but they must live with the fact that there will be future councils with development connections and interests. The unfortunate consequence of such past councils is clearly evident in our Municipality. It may be argued that pipeline water will aid farming. Experience shows otherwise. Municipal water only facilitates subdivision, development and loss of the farmland. Please do not let this happen. Please reject the proposed pipeline.

Sincerely
Roy D. Hyndman

R.D. Hyndman

