COPY

The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich

October 24, 2000

Capital Health Region
Suite 430 – 1900 Richmond Avenue
Victoria B.C.
V8R 4R2

Attention: Richard S. Stanwick, M.D., M.Sc., FRCPC, F.A.A.P.,
Medical Health Officer and Director of Research

Dear Mr. Stanwick:

Re: Senanus Drive Water Quality Issues

Council is in receipt of your letter of August 17, 2000 to Mr. Frank Towler addressing a water-sampling program for the Senanus Drive area of our municipality. In preparation for this testing and in light of the longstanding complexity of this issue, Council would like to pass along the following information to guide your testing protocol.

In 1999 your staff representative, Mr. Bradbury, submitted a report on the issue, a report that has been widely quoted since. In it, he drew conclusions about water quality based on samples taken by individual residents from their taps. This methodology was later reviewed and found wanting. As a result, a subsequent study was undertaken by an independent hydrologist, Mr. Loewen, using a different methodology that took samples from the aquifer at the wellhead. A committee composed of Mr. Bradbury, a representative from Senanus Drive, and a representative of Council's Water Advisory Task Force, supervised Mr. Loewen.

Before embarking on your new testing regimen, we would ask that you review both the methodology and substance of Mr. Loewen's report and discuss your testing plans with District of Central Saanich staff. We have attached a copy of Mr. Loewen's report for your review.

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Council is also desirous of obtaining more information on this issue. In this light, the Council is considering conducting its own assessment and analysis over the coming months. This review would be directed toward establishing, on a detailed household-by-household basis, the nature of problems being experienced, analysis of the sources of these problems, and different treatment regimes (if any) that could be applied to mitigate the problems.

We would very much like to work with the Capital Health Region in our efforts to resolve the problems in this area and invite the Capital Health Region to coordinate research and analysis activities with the District.

Should you require any clarification in respect of the above, please contact the undersigned at (250) 544-4210 at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Nirmal Bhattacharya, P. Eng.,
Municipal Engineer

NB/sh
cc. Gary Nason, Clerk-Administrator