

The Mayor and Council
The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich
1903 Mount Newton Cross Road
Saanichton, BC
V8M 2A9

12 August 2008

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

I am writing to express my strong concerns with the recent Council motion to amend the Regional Context Statement of the Official Community Plan.

I feel strongly that the whole point of the Official Community Plan is to prevent development decisions from being made based on short term thinking, and that this amendment makes it too easy to bypass the OCP. There is no point in having a set of rules or guidelines if they are just going to be ignored when a particular group feels that the rules shouldn't apply to them.

In this case, the proposed amendment appears, from the 30 June 2008 staff memo entitled "Regional Context Statement Amendment", to have been created specifically to bypass the OCP in order to allow the Senanus water line extension, which would otherwise be disallowed by the OCP.

The Senanus water line proposal has been flawed from its inception, and has clearly been shown by many professional recommendations as unnecessary. Numerous practical local alternatives such as tapping springs and collecting rainwater have been rejected without any reasonable explanation, and the "pressing health concerns" which the proponents have claimed are undocumented.

If this RCS amendment is passed, it will weaken the protections set in place for the rural character of this area, and allow development at the whim of any particular Council. I urge the present Council to reject the amendment, and to support the desires of the community to protect their neighborhood from development.

Thank you,



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