

Subject: Gutting Central Saanich's OCP and facilitating destruction of the CRD Regional Growth Strategy.
From: Lori Waters <lorih2o@shaw.ca>
Date: Mon, 07 Jul 2008 13:23:10 -0700
To: Central Saanich Council <council@csaanich.ca>
CC: Ruby Shea <Ruby.Shea@csaanich.ca>, "Tracy Corbett, Manager of Planning, CRD." <tcorbett@crd.bc.ca>

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Central Saanich's Director of Planning memo of June 30, 2008, which came available for public viewing on July 4, 2008 (one business day ago), is extremely disturbing. It contains alarming OCP changes with very serious regional implications. As such, please resolve to allow the public and relevant committees more time to review this document, before moving to readings of the bylaws. My initial concerns are outlined below.

Upon hearing that a current proposal is contrary to our bylaws and contrary to the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy, one would hope that Council and/or District Staff would take an opportunity to stop and think more clearly about the impetus or proposal that is contrary to our laws, and examine options to provide a solution that will instead work *within*

our existing bylaws. It is extremely shocking to learn that the District, upon learning that a given project does not meet current District requirements, would instead simply move to change the bylaws. This sets a dangerous precedent within the district, and has serious future implications locally and regionally. Will the District simply change protective bylaws to suit itself on other occasions? Which laws, and where will it stop?

Creating a resolution to allow this and future Councils to install infrastructure outside the Urban Containment area simply via Council resolution seems absolutely contrary to the intent of the original language which was *purposefully*

written into the OCP. The OCP document was created through much time and effort by many people to ensure the bylaw document reflects the values of everyone in the District. To suggest that the 'rigidity' of current statements embodied within current OCP language are simply outdated and were not *meant* to be 'rigid' does not give due credit to the history of the OCP, nor to the most recent OCP democratic revision process. To change wording after the fact in this way insults the democratic process.

Furthermore, changing the language to also eliminate the current requirement for unanimous approval of urban containment amendments by CRD municipalities through the CRD Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Process

removes a further safeguard barrier purposefully put in place to protect our lands. The proposed wording amendment is clearly designed to skirt around the current legal regional process, and therefore sets a dangerous precedent regionally. If Central Saanich does this, other regional municipalities can follow suit, facilitating similar OCP RCS changes. Should this plan be successful, the doors will be wide open for sprawl and loss of our rural lands. Allowing this resolution will mean that there are no safeguards in place and no checks and balances to ensure that exceptions be proven by specific processes through the correct jurisdictions. If Council decides to install infrastructure on health reasons, the Council will be acting as a "health board," taking over VIHA CMHO jurisdiction, and working outside powers granted through the *Health Act*.

Long term planning puts urban containment boundaries in place to protect rural lands in perpetuity. Without them, we seriously fetter the ability of future generations to plan for their own food security and other land use needs. Ignoring the intent and principles of our own urban containment boundaries renders these protections meaningless, both locally and regionally, and sets a very dangerous negative precedent for the CRD RGS. Not considering regional implications of a fundamental amendment to an important OCP principle is not thoughtful planning. I am cc'ing CRD planning staff on my concerns.

Please do not endorse Bylaw no 1626.

Instead, please allow adequate time for full public process, and endorse a resolution to examine ways that the OCP could be strengthened to ensure that adequate checks and balances are maintained, such that any provision of infrastructure to rural lands must be very thoroughly proven and justified.

Thank you.

Regards,

Lori

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"I am for those tiny, invisible, molecular, moral forces that work from individual to individual through the crannies of the world... like so many rootlets, or, like the capillary oozing of water, which, if you give them time Will rend the hardest monuments of man's pride"

~ William James (1899)