

August 25, 2008

Central Saanich Mayor and Council,  
1903 Mt Newton Cross Rd.,  
Saanichton, V8M 2A9

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: Proposed change to your OCP and Regional Context Statement to accommodate the proposed Senanus waterline

I attended your council meeting when this issue was discussed on August 18, 2008. I had already received background on the topic as a director of the Regional Planning Society whose goals are to uphold the Regional Growth Strategy and to support long term planning for our region. Protection of the outstanding values in the capital region necessitates adhering to the Urban Containment Boundaries. These were put in place to ensure the protection of rural and agricultural lands and the environmental, social and economic health of the whole capital region.

The proposal in front of Central Saanich council to would mean a major change in your Regional Context Statement and your OCP which would affect the region and is a change to the Regional Growth Strategy. This issue is also a CRD issue as it is another threat to the viability of the Regional Growth Strategy.

The proposal to build a very long water pipeline to the Senanus area could have ripple effects all along the line and it does have regional implications. The expected increase in water use could have a detrimental effect on the functioning of septic tank systems. This could mean that the municipality in the future could be looking at the major expense of running sewer lines to this collection of houses. That would be prohibitively expensive and could force more intensive development to pay for it. That could threaten the agricultural areas that your council has committed to protect and that the region wants to see continue as agricultural lands. That is only one possible future scenario.

I hope that other solutions to the Senanus water problem can be found that will not have such an impact. There is the suggestion of digging of a larger community well that would provide a better water supply to the houses at Senanus. Are there other opportunities for a solution to this issue?

I would urge caution on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Husband, Director Regional Planning Society, 301 Ross Durrance Rd., Victoria