Senanus not an urban area

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The Senanus Peninsula is a rural part of Central Saanich that has never been designated for urban development. Over the past 20 years, the Senanus residents have continued to develop their 20 estate properties anyway. Sales ads and magazine articles describe many of these large waterfront residences as featuring numerous bathrooms, secondary suites, entertainment buildings, pools and spas. This development requires excessive use of water.

For many years, these rural residents have only focused on bringing in urban infrastructure, i.e. piped water, to solved their water problems. The district council has recommended research to assess local solutions such as cisterns and recharge of the local aquifer. The residents' group refused to participate.

Recently, they have convinced the District to apply for a Green grant to cover two thirds of the pipeline costs. The remaining one-half million dollars is to be covered by a Local Improvement Tax. This tax will also apply to an additional 40 residences in the Mount Newton Valley causing some tax increases of up to 25 per cent for the next 15 years.

As a District, I believe we need to support Senanus residents to address their water needs locally. This would be an appropriate use of Green Tax dollars, a reasonable rescue package and a clear message that development in Central Saanich must respect our Official Community Plan.

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