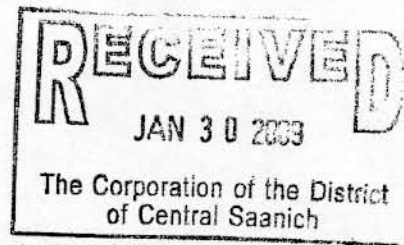


January 30, 2009



Mayor and Council,  
District of Central Saanich  
Via FAX: (250) 652-0135

Late Item  
Feb. 2109

Opposition to Central Saanich initiative to extend the watermain outside of the Urban Containment Boundary – re: Senanus watermain LSA bylaws

Dear Mayor and Council,

I attended your council meeting when this issue was discussed in August and September of 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. Now, despite these important issues, this Council intends to move forward with the reading of bylaws to create a Local Service Area for a project whose need has neither been proven, nor data adequately examined and recommended alternatives implemented.

The proposed watermain and the related LSA bylaws are contrary to the CRD Regional Growth Strategy, and the Regional Planning Society strongly urges you not to bring forward these bylaws until the many outstanding issues have been addressed to the satisfaction of all stakeholders in the District and in the CRD. Because no need has been proven for the Senanus Watermain, bringing forward these bylaws at this time represents another threat to the viability of the Regional Growth Strategy.

Concerns mentioned earlier still hold true: 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