

March 14, 2007

NOTE TO FILE

Planning Context – MRIF Application – District of Central Saanich, Senanus Watermain, 17304

Reasons for not awarding bonus points for the planning context:

- The purpose of this project is to extend a water main into a rural residential area of Central Saanich – an area that includes, or is in the vicinity of, ALR land and is not part of the designated residential settlement areas in the District's OCP.
- The area to be served with water is also not within the regional urban containment and servicing policy area of the CRD's regional growth strategy.
 - The purpose of this policy is to restrict the provision of urban water/sewer services into rural areas to prevent further development (urban sprawl).
 - Exceptions can be made for pressing human or environmental health regions, or to service agricultural land (see page 7 of the RGS).
- Central Saanich's own regional context statement in their OCP states "The District does not extend urban services such as the sewer and water system into the rural or agricultural areas." (page 80).
- There is some evidence of water quality/quantity issues in the area to be serviced by the new water main, but it is unclear as to whether or not this could be characterized as a "pressing public health issue" as stipulated in the RGS. Further discussion would be needed with the District and the Regional District on this issue.
- It is also unclear whether or not the District would ensure that the provision of water service into the area would not result in further sprawl development and pressure to take land out the ALR.

Respectfully submitted

Brent Mueller, RGS Manager, Vancouver Island, 387-2540

I:\Gov_Relations_Plan_Div\Regional Districts\Capital\Central Saanich MRIF ap 17304.doc

DRURY
Pls add to
Comments on MRIF
database
Before recommending
for funding see
Urban Growth
Review.