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## Senanus Drive residents gain chance to vote on water supply; [Final Edition]

[Kim Westad](#). [Times - Colonist](#). Victoria, B.C.: [Sep 1, 2007](#). pg. B.2

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### Abstract (Summary)

Many residents of the area, near the junction of West Saanich Road and Mount Newton Cross Road, have long complained of poor drinking water, caused by salt water and high levels of minerals in their well water. In order for the project to proceed, though, 51 per cent of **Senanus** Drive homeowners have to be in favour of it. It would likely cost each **Senanus** Drive property owner about \$10,000 to cover the municipality's portion of the total \$1.69-million project cost, Mayor Jack Mar said.

"I've always been in favour of giving residents potable water," said Mar. "This is a water-quality issue, not a development issue."

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### Full Text (335 words)

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Residents of a rural area west of Saanichton will have the option of hooking up to the municipal water supply, after Central Saanich received a \$1.1-million grant from the federal and provincial governments.

The money, from the Canada-B.C. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, will allow extension of the community water system to **Senanus** Drive, connecting 64 homes to the system.

Many residents of the area, near the junction of West Saanich Road and Mount Newton Cross Road, have long complained of poor drinking water, caused by salt water and high levels of minerals in their well water. In order for the project to proceed, though, 51 per cent of **Senanus** Drive homeowners have to be in favour of it. It would likely cost each **Senanus** Drive property owner about \$10,000 to cover the municipality's portion of the total \$1.69-million project cost, Mayor Jack Mar said.

More than 51 per cent have been in favour in the past, Mar said, but an official vote will have to be taken. That's expected to be done in the next month or so. Municipal staff are working on the best way to conduct that.

Although some area residents have lobbied for decades to join the municipal water system, the issue has split council and the community. Some are concerned hooking up the large residential acreages to the water system could lead to increased development.

Municipal politicians in favour of the connection say increased development

isn't tied to water, but to zoning, which the municipality controls.

"I've always been in favour of giving residents potable water," said Mar. "This is a water-quality issue, not a development issue."

If residents do vote in favour, the main would extend two kilometres, from the Thompson Road intersection on Mount Newton Cross Road to the most westerly part of **Senanus** Drive.

The grant sees the federal, provincial and municipal government contribute equally to a project that helps smaller communities with pressing infrastructure needs, particularly "green projects" such as improving the drinking-water supply.

Credit: Times Colonist

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