



MNNA
Mount Newton
Neighborhood
Association

Working Together for Sustainable Solutions

1179 Mount Newton Crossroad, Saanichton V8M1S1

January 10, 2011

Dear Members of the board of the CRD and the Agricultural Land Commission,

The Mount Newton Neighborhood Association is in receipt of a letter dated January 4 2010, and accompanying materials from the Residents and Ratepayers of Central Saanich Society, which requests that the CRD act to enforce the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy and to preserve Central Saanich's Urban Containment Boundaries by issuing a moratorium on sprawl developments.

The MNNA has for a number of years encouraged the District of Central Saanich to explore alternatives to the Mount Newton / Senanus pipeline proposal, and has successfully challenged the District in court to prevent the pipeline from being constructed, thereby providing urban services outside the Urban Containment Boundary. This legal challenge was undertaken at considerable expense to the members of the MNNA. In spite of the successful outcome of the legal challenge, the District of Central Saanich has begun another process to construct a pipeline along the same route. The MNNA continues to oppose this proposal, which ignores a wealth of data showing that the pipeline is not necessary, and is contrary to the spirit of the CRD Regional Growth Strategy and the District's own Official Community Plan.

The MNNA fully supports RRoCSS' request to uphold the RGS and OCP, as we feel that extension of urban services outside the UCB will have severe land use implications, inhibiting the ability of future generations to make their own land use decisions, and to grow food on Southern Vancouver Island. The broader policy implications of the continued disregard by Central Saanich Council of its own Official Community Plan and the CRD Regional Growth Strategy pose a serious threat to the survival of the CRD Regional Growth Strategy.

It is crucial that CRD municipalities not only respect the binding RGS agreement they have made with each other, but that they ensure the agreement is respected by all signatories. Without such collective enforcement, the agreement is meaningless. It is unreasonable for CRD Citizens to have to enforce the RGS rather than the RGS signatories themselves, and it is an abdication of CRD responsibility and an unreasonable burden on private resources and funds of Citizens.

The Mount Newton Neighborhood Association calls on the CRD and the ALC to act. Please issue a moratorium on developments which destroy our rural and agricultural lands. Please enforce and uphold the Regional Growth Strategy collective agreement. Please preserve the urban containment boundaries, and protect the rights of current and future citizens in Central Saanich and the CRD.

Yours truly,

Robert Bocking, President, Board of Directors, and on behalf of the members of the
Mount Newton Neighborhood Association
www.senanus.net