

My name is Bill Dancer and I am representing the Cadboro Bay Residents Association

While there has been no plebiscite held in Cadboro Bay, it is clear that a significant percentage of the community do not support the siting of a Treatment Plant in Haro Woods.

The main, but not the exclusive, reasons for this are:

First, this will entail the clearance of trees to a greater or lesser extent depending on the specific location of the proposed site within the woods. This will add to the already declining canopy cover in South Vancouver Island and the local area. As a consequence it will reduce the natural long term free carbon positive effect mature trees have and, as well, release stored carbon from the disturbed forest floor. Further the most recent list of possible sites in this area includes many that are treeless now or would involve less destruction of treed areas. Some of these sites have the advantage of being within the boundaries of the University of Victoria who is the identified beneficiary of resource recovery outputs.

Second, the Cadboro Bay Local Area Plan of February 12th 2002 speaks to the Saanich owned portion of Haro Woods remaining a Public Wild Woods area (Policy 8-8) and that future options would include Park designation (Policy 11-6). Throughout the Local Area Plan there is emphasis in retaining treed areas intact. Appendix 1 (September 1999) of the Local Area Plan which tabulates results of polls taken in regard the plan show the highest agreement factor (89%) to be regarding the satisfaction with parks and trails which include Haro Woods. That sentiment, we believe, is as true today as it was in 1999.

Third, regardless of any official designations, Haro Woods has been regarded and used by the wider local population as a park. Indeed several thousands of hours of volunteer time has been put in clearing the Saanich portion of invasive species including volunteers from well outside the immediate Cadboro Bay area. The same offer was made to the two other property owners involved with Haro Woods but was declined for various reasons. If nothing else, these volunteer efforts, which continue to this day in other Saanich Parks, shows the depth to which the community embraces Haro Woods and other forested spaces.

Fourth, Haro Woods is bounded on all sides by property which includes family dwellings, two day-care centers, one elementary school and a center which is involved with children with disabilities and which, according to reports to your committee, will undertake expansion of their facilities in the future. This entails heavy traffic periods with many young children travelling to and from these facilities particularly when schools are active. The concern here is that during construction, there will be a heavy increase in contractor vehicles servicing the site with the attendant safety risk. Additionally it appears to be normal practice to build treatment plants away from dwellings and situations where the daily transit of people is known to be high at times. Certainly there were other sites identified that would avoid these circumstances.

In this era where the effects of global warming appear to be apparent and the general thrust is to make every effort to reduce total carbon impact, it appears contradictory to opt for a largely treed site with its carbon positive attributes when other open clear sites appear to be available albeit at greater cost.

Importantly destruction of mature canopy leaves you with decades of recovery even if replanting follows soon after.

For these reasons we would say to you that the Cadboro Bay Residents Association strongly objects to siting of a treatment plant in Haro Woods.