

To: clerksec@saanich.ca for immediate distribution

November 2, 2009

RE: Saanich East North Oak Bay - Secondary Sewerage Treatment Facility Siting

Dear Mayor Frank Leonard and Council - Susan Brice ; Judy Brownoff; Vic Derman; Paul Gerrard ; Wayne Hunter; Dean Murdock ; Vicki Sanders; Leif Wergeland

We are within two months of the deadline for the CRD to finalize and present to the Province the detailed business report on the costs, site locations and methodology for the implementation of secondary sewerage treatment in the Greater Victoria area.

At the October 7th Core Area Liquid Wastewater Management Committee (CALWMC) meeting the motion passed that “the District of Saanich be formally contacted to determine if part of the Saanich owned portion of the Arbutus Meter Station (Haro Woods) site is available for construction and operation of a wastewater facility and, if so, under what terms”.

For these reasons the Cadboro Bay Residents Association (CBRA) wishes to clarify and state our position with respect to possible siting of a secondary treatment facility in the Saanich or CRD owned portions of Haro Woods .

CBRA does not support the siting of a secondary wastewater treatment plant in Haro Woods or, given the latest consultant’s report (Stantec) listing other more cost effective means than the current one, siting of less costly holding tanks in Haro Woods.

CBRA supports, as do many others, a potential site on the University of Victoria (UVic) campus but not exclusively limited to either of the two potential sites currently under consideration. In taking this position CBRA realizes that should a treatment plant be located in the Saanich East/North Oak Bay (SENOB) area the location of a pumping station in Haro Woods would by all accounts be required.

CBRA takes this position and brings our views forward to Saanich council for consideration based on the following:

1. To remind council that on record is a petition signed by some 980 residents asking Saanich to designate the municipally owned forested land of Haro Woods as a Saanich Park . This closely follows what is outlined in the Cadboro Bay Local Area Plan of 2002. We would also note that in Appendix 1(i) of that plan 1999 responses to questions are listed with the largest “In Favour” vote 89% was in regard to parks and trails and our opinion is that this holds true today.
2. Haro Woods is surrounded on all sides by properties that include family dwellings, two day care centers, an elementary school, two kindergartens and a facility that provides services to children with disabilities. Other neighbours include a residential center for nuns and a spiritual center. Residents do not consider this an acceptable place to site a sewage treatment plant.

3. Arbutus Road provides our community and outlying neighbourhoods direct access routes to UVic, UVic Daycare, Frank Hobbs Elementary, Arbutus Grove Day Care and Arbutus Middle School, and Goward House Senior's Centre. Considering the high volume of pedestrian and vehicular traffic potentially impacted during protracted treatment plant construction periods along with limited location for any Arbutus Road alternate routes, additional traffic volumes would have significant impacts on other major routes, particularly in the McKenzie/Shelbourne area.

An advantage with a UVic site is that there are many routes feeding in and out of the campus. As already demonstrated UVic has been able to minimize traffic problems despite years of aggressive building on the university grounds.

4. Any site on the UVic campus offers, to the highest degree, the possibility to take advantage of resource recovery in such a way as to make energy and water available to the campus, adding greatly to their energy and water conservation efforts. Furthermore, site selection at a UVic location would also benefit from (a) incurring the carbon negative impact of reducing Saanich's continuing loss of canopy cover, (b) providing free positive carbon impact derived from living trees, and, (c) additionally introduce a negative carbon impact as stored carbons released from the disturbed forest floor.

5. A further motion passed at the October CALWMC meeting required CRD staff and consultants that "the UVic Board of Governors be formally contacted regarding the availability of sites for wastewater treatment facilities on the UVic campus". The tone of the two hour debate on Selection of the SENOB site -- which was not made -- was that informal discussions resulted in UVic repeatedly asking "what are you asking of us" or words to that affect. Formal contact should therefore be made to consider partnership possibilities that may exist and include exploring some of the many possibilities that have been suggested. CBRA would fully support this initiative as it would place the plant close to the main beneficiary of resource recovery outputs and would also bring into play Cedar Hill Recreation Center, the pitch and putt golf course, and possibly include the gated community as potential beneficiaries. Here CBRA notes the Saanich Peninsula plant is actively undertaking such initiatives in its area.

Finally with respect to the Stantec report Triple Bottom Line, aside from introducing a large cost reduction from the original \$1.2 billion mainly by way of some methodological changes, also brings the three identified SENOB sites close to the same cost. The weighting of Cost, Environmental, and Social category shows that your decision rests on whether the relatively high cost penalty for Haro Woods outweighs its much higher environmental penalty, assuming that every site has a sensitive if not equal social impact.

CBRA therefore urges you to support a UVic on-campus site and should the SENOB plant go ahead we request that Saanich acquire the remaining CRD portion of Haro Woods for public park purposes and inclusion into the Haro Woods urban forest and a Saanich Park.

Please inform our Board regarding the earliest opportunity council would be prepared to hear our concerns.

Irene Stewart, Chair

Cadboro Bay Residents Association