

CBRA Presentation to CALWMC 23rd June 2010

The community of Cadboro Bay and the CBRA are pleased that there will not be a sewerage treatment plant in Haro Woods. The CBRA's continuing strong position on Haro Woods is that the whole 10 hectares should remain as urban forest space and be rezoned a Natural Parkland. That is its "best use".

This position is a reflection of the wishes of the community, based upon significant social, economic and environmental values, and supported by a 2010 petition signed by some 1500 people.

Now that the focus has shifted to possible need (or not) of attenuation tanks, pumping station and (according to the June 9th Minutes of the CALWMC) an Energy Centre, there are non-wooded sites north of Arbutus Road and at UVic that would not require the removal of any treed lands. This would be in keeping with municipal, regional and provincial laws and policies dealing with global warming, greenhouse gases and carbon issues. No need to damage the Woods.

Having said this, we are aware of the points made by two of our community members in regard flow rates, particularly for wet weather demands, and we support their work. In looking at the timetable on page 3 of the tables at the end of Amendment 8, the attenuation tanks would not be installed until the 2014/2015 period at which time the Uplands should have separated presently combined sewers, with major progress on refurbishing Oak Bay municipal sewers. Therefore work must be done with data and interpretation to properly analyze the questionable need for any tank. This would reduce the cost to the taxpayer and avoid land disturbance.

We expect that a proper, thorough and meaningful public consultation process will be undertaken to inform the community of Amendment 8, that enables full two-way involvement for people and that as stated in the recent CRD press release, sites other than Haro Woods are to be fully investigated for the attenuation tank.

The bottom line is that the CBRA believes no disturbance of the Woods makes any sense, and this priceless community asset must be protected in perpetuity as public woodland. In this regard the UVic portion already enjoys this status as of 1994 as part of the Commonwealth Nature Legacy and this may well be a route to consider in the present circumstances. It is now time for the covenants to be honoured, established by Saanich and the CRD over Haro Woods, that no other land uses would be planned without public meetings and hearings. Thank you for your time.

