



NEWS RELEASE

Date: July 19, 2012

For Immediate Release

Contaminated Soils in the Cowichan Valley

“The Cowichan Valley Regional District is going to be debating motions in the coming weeks that could bring greater focus to its efforts to gain a measure of control over the movement and dumping of soils – contaminated and otherwise – in the Regional District”, a statement released today said.

Shawnigan Lake Director Bruce Fraser will ask Directors at the August 1, 2012 Board meeting to consider a motion that will deal with the principle of the appropriateness of allowing treatment of contaminated soil in a watershed that provides area residents with potable water. Fraser said this concern covers all watersheds where communities take domestic water supplies but he is giving his immediate attention to the South Island Aggregates (SIA) application for a waste discharge permit as part of a reclamation proposal for the Stebbings Road quarry.

“This is a serious issue and we wish to continue to work with the Minister of Environment and the ministry staff in a collaborative manner to consider how the CVRD bylaws and the provincial contaminated soil regulations can be harmonized to prevent future risks to major community domestic water supplies,” Fraser said in the statement.

Fraser is consulting with his colleagues on the CVRD Board to finalize the motion he will ask them to consider.

Fraser’s decision to propose this motion came after the 4 ½ hour public meeting hosted by the CVRD on July 12, 2012 at the Kerry Park Recreation Centre when more than 250 area residents were given the opportunity to ask their questions and express their views on the SIA application. The CVRD committed to hold a public meeting after area residents complained that they did not believe their concerns and comments were being heard during SIA’s public consultation process. It is the provincial Ministry of Environment that will make a decision on SIA’s application.

CVRD Chair Rob Hutchins said in the statement that detailed minutes of the public meeting, along with written comments filed with the CVRD, will be ready for distribution to the Regional Services Committee meeting scheduled for July 25, 2012.

.../2



Hutchins said he wanted to thank the residents who attended the public meeting for helping to create a safe atmosphere for people to ask questions and to offer comment. He also thanked the provincial government for making staff representatives available from the Ministries of Environment and Energy and Mines. SIA was acknowledged for making their technical consultants and senior management available.

The CVRD chair said the comment package would be on the agenda for formal receipt by the entire Board at its next scheduled meeting on August 1, 2012.

Meanwhile, Director Mike Walker, Electoral Area A, Mill Bay / Malahat, will be asking the Regional Services Committee next week to consider action to force the removal of 4,500 cubic metres of contaminated soil from land on the Malahat.

Walker said the contaminated soil was deposited 12 years ago on land above three lakes at a site known as the Butterfield or Lund Small Holdings site and is still there in spite of a Supreme Court ruling that it was illegal to treat contaminated soils at that location. Walker said the Ministry of Environment has been trying to force the removal of soil without success.

"I'm going to ask my fellow Directors to support a motion that asks staff to prepare a report on taking whatever action is necessary to get that contaminated soil removed," Walker said.

-30-

For Further Information Contact:

Mr. Warren Jones, CAO 250.746.2510