

BYLAW REFERRAL FORM RESPONSE SUMMARY

- Approval Recommended for Reasons Outlined Below
- Approval Recommended Subject to Conditions Outlined Below
- Interests Unaffected by Bylaw
- Approval Not Recommended Due to Reason Outlined Below

North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) is the largest water district on Salt Spring Island. We are responsible for providing potable water to the majority of homes and businesses, including in our community's town center of Ganges. In 2014, a moratorium on any new water connections within our district was put in place. This measure was enacted, and is still in place today, because of the finite capacity of our water supplies. An unfortunate outcome of the moratorium is that new housing development within our district is very restricted. We have long acknowledged the tension between our mandate to responsibly manage limited water resources and our community's need to increase housing supply and options. It is a predicament without a clear resolve or horizon.

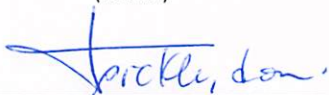
Considering this, desalination plants should be allowed in the Trust Area as a means of providing safe potable water. As science and technology further develops the energy demands and adverse impacts may lessen, or desalination may become an alternative source to provide potable water on the islands (S 4.2.5 and S 4.2.9 of the Draft Islands Trust Policy Statement).

Trust Council should mandate the use of water conservation practices throughout the Trust Area by requiring new developments and expanding or renovating of existing developments to have at minimum, two months water storage per lot for landscaping and recreational purposes along with low-flow plumbing fixtures, and to encourage the use of on-site drip irrigation, low water demand planting and mulching for all planting (food and ornamental) for landscaping and gardening purposes (S2.1 and 4.2.12 of the Draft Islands Trust Policy Statement).

The finite capacity of water supplies on the Islands should be listed as a factor affecting "the availability, affordability, and suitability of housing options" (Part 6/Context - Affordable Housing).

Islands Trust Area (Islands 2050)

(Island)



(Signature)

21 October 2021

(Date)

TC 183

(Bylaw Number)

District Manager

(Title)

North Salt Spring Waterworks District

(Agency)