

**From:** Alix Hodson Deggan <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Letter to Executive Committee for your reference  
**Date:** March 18, 2025 at 4:11:11 PM PDT  
**To:** Tobi Elliott <[telliott@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:telliott@islandstrust.bc.ca)>

Executive Committee(EC), Islands Trust  
Attention: Laura Patrick, Chairperson of the EC

To: EC Council

Gabriola Island is receiving a \$50,000 Water Budget Study(WBS)not counting staff time. Will this study be used, or like so many others commissioned in the past, archived and shelved?

For this study to be authentic the data used must include projections for the future and calculations based on:

(1) climate change consequences \*

\*As David Rappaport, environmental ecologist who pioneered the field of eco-system health, says: You can't use historic climate data to project likely future scenarios...the impacts of climate change are increasingly unpredictable — phenomena, atmospheric rivers, heat domes and fire infernos generating their own unique weather systems — means we are living in a world of growing uncertainty.(Driftwood, Oct. 2024).

(2) increases in the number of users; due to development authorized in current zoning.

(3) groundwater and aquifer resilience, capacity and resupply.

(4) groundwater risk of contamination by concentrated sewage from septic systems in densely populated areas(i.e. village area on Gabriola Island).

And **these studies** must be current (limited to the last 3 years)\* and not just reliant on historical data, as is often the case.

In addition to the OW well records (test wells), that are often situated in the sparsely populated areas, we need data derived from several wells located in the more densely populated “at risk” zones. The data records from the wells in developed areas would be more representative of the actual demands and stress that is being placed on the groundwater supply and the aquifer system.

How will this study be used:

1. Will the information gained be integrated into land-use planning and lead to the drafting of new “Directive” policies in the Trust Policy Statement and OCP to protect the groundwater supply, recharge areas and ecosystems?
2. Will the “WBS” inform and direct Trust Council and the staff’s land-use decisions by limiting density increases in groundwater recharge areas, aquifer and watershed regions and ecosystem stressed areas?

## CONCLUSION:

If the various projects in the “WBS” do not address future demands, climate change and utilize current and authentic data in their calculations for water availability, then the information derived from this study will not be reliable or useful and will once again be shelved.

The “WBS” must be the first step in the process of developing new TPS and OCP directives and policies that enforce the protection of groundwater, aquifers and watersheds. In the absence of clear, definitive and precisely worded freshwater protection regulations, any new development or density increases will further exacerbate the water problems of the Trust Islands while continuing to erode the health of the ecosystem.

Please place this letter on Trust records.

Thankyou,  
Alix Hodson Deggan,  
Gabriola Island, BC.