

From: Gary Mccollum [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 4:43 PM
To: Islands2050
Cc: Scott Colbourne; Kees Langereis
Subject: Islands2050

Categories: Purple Category

Hello,

My comments are based on the perspective of my home Island, Gabriola.

When the draft speaks of increased density for Affordable Housing, I assume in our context, that means allowing for increased potential buildout. In my opinion, Gabriola has too many people now, and that number will go up. As it is, our ferry service, our commercial and emergency services, and our infrastructures are stressed.

On top of that, on Gabriola we have no idea what the maximum allowable build out will be until we have reached a First Nations Treaty settlement. No increase in potential population build out should be contemplated here until the treaty is settled

Although affordable housing is an important issue throughout much of North America, let's not throw increased density at it. Let's use density transfers and a density bank if we need to concentrate development in appropriate areas.

Also, it is a mistake to prohibit desalinization. This has been proven to be an effective means of providing fresh water in jurisdictions worldwide. Where there have been problems are with very large scale operations, returning concentrated sea water to shallow channels with poor tidal circulation, increasing salt and mineral content in those areas.

In the case of the Georgia Strait portion of the Salish Sea, with it's very deep waters and strong tidal action, return water from any small to moderate size plant, would be quickly remixed and leave no measurable increase in salinity or mineral content.

As for energy requirements, desalinization suits itself very well to renewable energy sources. Fresh water can easily be produced and stored when wind or solar energy is available. A constant electrical supply or connection to the grid is not necessary.

There is nothing intrinsically harmful in desalinization, A relatively small operation could provide enough fresh water on Gabriola to eliminate the need for trucking water from Nanaimo. I, for one, wouldn't object to fewer trucks traveling every day on the ferry.

Please follow the science on this one. Yes, regulate desalinization, but to prohibit it altogether is a shortsighted, reactionary, response to the question.

Gary McCollum