

## Executive Summary for the Regional District of Nanaimo

March 6, 2019

Request to change the zoning bylaws of the Regional District of Nanaimo to expressly prohibit the bottling of groundwater for commercial sale or bulk export

The purpose of the presentation is to address the Board about the issue of protecting groundwater on Vancouver Island and all over British Columbia. In November of 2017, the Government approved a groundwater extraction licence for a resident of Merville to bottle and sell water from the Comox Valley aquifer. We successfully campaigned for the CVRD to deny the rezoning necessary to bottle the water on site. Therefore, the current licence does not allow the applicant to utilize his licence and bottle water on his property. However, his water extraction licence is still valid, so I have been campaigning to prevent him from trucking the water to a site that allows bottling of groundwater. I am approaching all AVICC communities asking them to revise their bylaws to prevent bottling of groundwater by any water licence holder.

BC groundwater is at risk from population growth, climate change that has brought Level 4 drought to Vancouver Island in recent years, and provincial government licencing of groundwater for bottling and commercial sale. If BC aquifers are overused and not well managed, residents and farmers who rely on groundwater as their only source of water will not be able to look after their personal needs for drinking water, sanitation, growing their backyard gardens or growing their crops and raising their livestock. That would put our food security at risk. Without water, farmers cannot produce our food, and as we have seen with the severe drought in California, we will not be able to continue to rely on importing our food from that source. Without water, there is no life. There is not enough information known about our aquifers to risk bottling and selling any of the water.

There is an existing, real threat to the groundwater of Vancouver Island. The FLNRO Ministry continues to approve water extraction licences for bottling and commercial sale of groundwater.

My request for the City of Duncan.

- 1) that you consider taking the necessary steps to implement a bylaw that expressly prohibits bottling of groundwater in any of your zoning, to help protect our groundwater today and for our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren in the future.

We cannot allow water bottling from our aquifers based on theory and calculations. The consequences of being wrong could be catastrophic. I would sincerely appreciate the support of the Regional District of Nanaimo in protecting the above ground uses of our groundwater by preventing anyone from bottling and selling water from any aquifer in BC. Water is our most precious resource. Water is life. We must do everything we can to protect and conserve it. Thank you for your time and your consideration.

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