

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2011 6:03 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

However, there are some significant gaps and concerns in the policy proposal that must be addressed if we are going to balance competing demands for water, ensure watersheds are healthy, and best serve the public interest through good decision-making and public participation.

Water Allocations: The current water allocation regime, “first-in-time, first-in-right” (FITFIR), is not working, yet the Water Sustainability Act proposal does not tackle the FITFIR regime. Instead, it proposes water licence trading and water markets to deal with allocation that could open the door to the privatization of water, which most British Columbians, including me, do not want to have happen. Instead of moving BC towards water markets, the proposed legislation should consider:

- A watershed based decision making process that allows water users within a basin to determine an equitable allocation in times of drought.
- Government regulation of the ways in which licensees can exercise water entitlement ensuring efficient and sustainable use of resources.

In-Stream Flows: While the policy proposal appears to recognize the need to balance the needs of water for people and water for nature, the proposed in-stream flow measures would only apply to new water users and not to the 44,000 current water licence holders. This is a significant weakness, as is leaving in-stream flow measures as only “guidelines” and not legislated with a robust regulatory framework. Strong regulations for stream flows are our best insurance against further degradation of our natural world and a new water law must have strong, legislated flows to meet the needs for human needs and the environment. A new Water Sustainability Act should:

- Ensure better transparency of hydrological/water licensing data to allow in-stream flow needs to be understood
- Set environmental flow standards
- Develop “precautionary flow numbers” for rivers and streams where incomplete data exists, until more site-specific determinations can be made.

Water Governance: How decisions are made about water will define our future as a province. The new policy proposal attempts to enable a variety of governance approaches, but are vague and lacking in vision. A better system of water governance would recognize that citizen engagement, watershed management groups with multiple sectors represented, and empowered local governments is a better model to decide how we make decisions about water.

Any proposal to sell water, charge for water or buy water must be brought down. As water, which you are made of, is vital to your life. While you may feel that you will always have access to water, as soon as water is considered a commodity, that security has gone.

I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From : ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2011 3:21 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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* Under NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) which is really an investment agreement, water, as soon as it "leaves its natural state and enters into ANY form of commerce" it becomes subject to the investors rights and National Treatment Clause under NAFTA rules which puts our water and the laws governing it into corporate hands and corporate law suits! This MUST NOT be allowed to happen. Water must remain a public commons.

- A watershed based decision making process that allows water users within a basin to determine an equitable allocation in times of drought.
- Government regulation of the ways in which licensees can exercise water entitlement ensuring efficient and sustainable use of resources.

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From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2011 4:33 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

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From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

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From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2011 5:47 PM

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From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2011 6:50 PM

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From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2011 8:55 PM

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From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2011 10:49 PM

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From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Friday, March 4, 2011 6:31 AM

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From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Friday, March 4, 2011 6:57 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

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PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Friday, March 4, 2011 10:24 AM

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From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Friday, March 4, 2011 11:59 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

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PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Friday, March 4, 2011 12:02 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

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Water Governance: How decisions are made about water will define our future as a province. The new policy proposal attempts to enable a variety of governance approaches, but are vague and lacking in vision. A better system of water governance would recognize that citizen engagement, watershed management groups with multiple sectors represented, and empowered local governments is a better model to decide how we make decisions about water.

I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

I live on the Kettle river in Midway Bc and have witnessed the effects of the current water use laws first hand. Our river is now and has been for several years number 1 or 2 on the endanger rivers list. Over the last 10 years the demand on the kettle from hay and cattle ranching and logging has adversely effected this watershed

thank you

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Friday, March 4, 2011 3:14 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

However, there are some significant gaps and concerns in the policy proposal that must be addressed if we are going to balance competing demands for water, ensure watersheds are healthy, and best serve the public interest through good decision-making and public participation.

Water Allocations: The current water allocation regime, “first-in-time, first-in-right” (FITFIR), is not working, yet the Water Sustainability Act proposal does not tackle the FITFIR regime. Instead, it proposes water licence trading and water markets to deal with allocation that could open the door to the privatization of water, which most British Columbians, including me, do not want to have happen. Instead of moving BC towards water markets, the proposed legislation should consider:

- A watershed based decision making process that allows water users within a basin to determine an equitable allocation in times of drought.
- Government regulation of the ways in which licensees can exercise water entitlement ensuring efficient and sustainable use of resources.

In-Stream Flows: While the policy proposal appears to recognize the need to balance the needs of water for people and water for nature, the proposed in-stream flow measures would only apply to new water users and not to the 44,000 current water licence holders. This is a significant weakness, as is leaving in-stream flow measures as only “guidelines” and not legislated with a robust regulatory framework. Strong regulations for stream flows are our best insurance against further degradation of our natural world and a new water law must have strong, legislated flows to meet the needs for human needs and the environment. A new Water Sustainability Act should:

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Friday, March 4, 2011 6:25 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

However, there are some significant gaps and concerns in the policy proposal that must be addressed if we are going to balance competing demands for water, ensure watersheds are healthy, and best serve the public interest through good decision-making and public participation.

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Water Governance: How decisions are made about water will define our future as a province. The new policy proposal attempts to enable a variety of governance approaches, but are vague and lacking in vision. A better system of water governance would recognize that citizen engagement, watershed management groups with multiple sectors represented, and empowered local governments is a better model to decide how we make decisions about water.

I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Friday, March 4, 2011 8:51 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

However, there are some significant gaps and concerns in the policy proposal that must be addressed if we are going to balance competing demands for water, ensure watersheds are healthy, and best serve the public interest through good decision-making and public participation.

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Saturday, March 5, 2011 8:34 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

However, there are some significant gaps and concerns in the policy proposal that must be addressed if we are going to balance competing demands for water, ensure watersheds are healthy, and best serve the public interest through good decision-making and public participation.

Water Allocations: The current water allocation regime, “first-in-time, first-in-right” (FITFIR), is not working, yet the Water Sustainability Act proposal does not tackle the FITFIR regime. Instead, it proposes water licence trading and water markets to deal with allocation that could open the door to the privatization of water, which most British Columbians, including me, do not want to have happen. Instead of moving BC towards water markets, the proposed legislation should consider:

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Water Governance: How decisions are made about water will define our future. The new policy proposal attempts to enable a variety of governance approaches, but are vague and lacking in vision. A better system of water governance would recognize that citizen engagement, watershed management groups with multiple sectors represented, and empowered local governments is a better model to decide how we make decisions about water. Water brought life to the planet, ignoring the necessity of water to a healthy environment is a death sentence to all.

I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Saturday, March 5, 2011 1:48 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

However, there are some significant gaps and concerns in the policy proposal that must be addressed if we are going to balance competing demands for water, ensure watersheds are healthy, and best serve the public interest through good decision-making and public participation.

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Saturday, March 5, 2011 10:16 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

However, there are some significant gaps and concerns in the policy proposal that must be addressed if we are going to balance competing demands for water, ensure watersheds are healthy, and best serve the public interest through good decision-making and public participation.

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Sunday, March 6, 2011 10:20 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

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engagement, watershed management groups with multiple sectors represented, and empowered local governments is a better model to decide how we make decisions about water.

I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC's water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Sunday, March 6, 2011 11:09 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Monday, March 7, 2011 9:27 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Monday, March 7, 2011 11:39 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Monday, March 7, 2011 2:49 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Monday, March 7, 2011 7:35 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

However, there are some significant gaps and concerns in the policy proposal that must be addressed if we are going to balance competing demands for water, ensure watersheds are healthy, and best serve the public interest through good decision-making and public participation.

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2011 9:04 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

However, there are some significant gaps and concerns in the policy proposal that must be addressed if we are going to balance competing demands for water, ensure watersheds are healthy, and best serve the public interest through good decision-making and public participation.

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2011 6:54 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

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Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 10:13 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

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Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 11:24 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

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Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:06 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:07 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:08 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:09 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 4:26 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 5:21 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 11:14 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Dear Water Legislator,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations. Personally, I want to see a system where government retains control and ownership the resource for future generations, and leasees can lease the resource from government in a predictable fashion

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 5:54 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

However, there are some significant gaps and concerns in the policy proposal that must be addressed if we are going to balance competing demands for water, ensure watersheds are healthy, and best serve the public interest through good decision-making and public participation.

Water Allocations: The current water allocation regime, “first-in-time, first-in-right” (FITFIR), is not working, yet the Water Sustainability Act proposal does not tackle the FITFIR regime. Instead, it proposes water licence trading and water markets to deal with allocation that could open the door to the privatization of water, which most British Columbians, including me, do not want to have happen.

Water is a human right to everyone and should always be kept a public right. Never private. No matter what the short term revenue, the cost to the public and the environment outweighs this. Our water is not for sale.

Instead of moving BC towards water markets, the proposed legislation should consider:

- A watershed based decision making process that allows water users within a basin to determine an equitable allocation in times of drought.
- Government regulation of the ways in which licensees can exercise water entitlement ensuring efficient and sustainable use of resources.

In-Stream Flows: While the policy proposal appears to recognize the need to balance the needs of water for people and water for nature, the proposed in-stream flow measures would only apply to new water users and not to the 44,000 current water licence holders. This is a significant weakness, as is leaving in-stream flow measures as only “guidelines” and not legislated with a robust regulatory framework. Strong regulations for stream flows are our best insurance against further degradation of our natural world and a new water law must have strong, legislated flows to meet the needs for human needs and the environment. A new Water Sustainability Act should:

- Ensure better transparency of hydrological/water licensing data to allow in-stream flow needs to be understood
- Set environmental flow standards
- Develop “precautionary flow numbers” for rivers and streams where incomplete data exists, until more site-specific determinations can be made.

Water Governance: How decisions are made about water will define our future as a province. The new policy proposal attempts to enable a variety of governance approaches, but are vague and lacking in vision. A better system of water governance would recognize that citizen engagement, watershed management groups with multiple sectors represented, and empowered local governments is a better model to decide how we make decisions about water.

This is not an opportunity to sell out another B.C. public commodity.

I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 2:12 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

However, there are some significant gaps and concerns in the policy proposal that must be addressed if we are going to balance competing demands for water, ensure watersheds are healthy, and best serve the public interest through good decision-making and public participation.

Water Allocations: The current water allocation regime, “first-in-time, first-in-right” (FITFIR), is not working, yet the Water Sustainability Act proposal does not tackle the FITFIR regime. Instead, it proposes water licence trading and water markets to deal with allocation that could open the door to the privatization of water, which most British Columbians, including me, do not want to have happen. Instead of moving BC towards water markets, the proposed legislation should consider:

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- Government regulation of the ways in which licensees can exercise water entitlement ensuring efficient and sustainable use of resources.

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Water Governance: How decisions are made about water will define our future as a province. The new policy proposal attempts to enable a variety of governance approaches, but are vague and lacking in vision. A better system of water governance would recognize that citizen

engagement, watershed management groups with multiple sectors represented, and empowered local governments is a better model to decide how we make decisions about water.

I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC's water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 9:06 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

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engagement, watershed management groups with multiple sectors represented, and empowered local governments is a better model to decide how we make decisions about water.

I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC's water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 3:54 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

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Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 4:24 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 11:56 AM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

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Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 5:57 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 5:38 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 11:26 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

There are some positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

However, there are some significant gaps and concerns in the policy proposal that must be addressed if we are going to balance competing demands for water, ensure watersheds are healthy, and best serve the public interest through good decision-making and public participation.

Water Allocations: The current water allocation regime, “first-in-time, first-in-right” (FITFIR), is not working, yet the Water Sustainability Act proposal does not tackle the FITFIR regime. Instead, it proposes water licence trading and water markets to deal with allocation that could open the door to the privatization of water, which most British Columbians, including me, do not want to have happen. Instead of moving BC towards water markets, the proposed legislation should consider:

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 12:28 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Thank you for inviting input on the proposed Water Sustainability Act.

It is good to see positive initiatives in the proposal. Regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems are good beginnings.

I am concerned about significant gaps and lack of foresight in the policy proposal that must be addressed if we are going to balance competing demands for water, ensure watersheds are healthy, and best serve the public interest through informed and long range decision-making and supported and wide-ranging public participation.

Water Allocations: The current water allocation regime, “first-in-time, first-in-right” (FITFIR), is short-sighted and is not working, yet the Water Sustainability Act proposal does not tackle the FITFIR regime. Instead, it proposes water licence trading and water markets to deal with allocation that could open the door to the privatization of water, which most British Columbians, including me, do not support. Instead of moving BC towards water markets, the proposed legislation should consider:

- An efficient watershed based decision making process that allows water users within a basin to determine an equitable allocation in times of drought.
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- Ensure very strong levels of transparency of hydrological/water licensing data to allow in-stream flow needs to be understood.
- Set environmental flow standards
- Develop “precautionary flow numbers” for rivers and streams where incomplete data exists, until more site-specific determinations can be made.

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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations. I expect the leaders of my province to act with integrity, deep thinking and responsibility on such a significant and far reaching issue. Please show your great-grandchildren your deepest non-partisan honour.

Sincerely,

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 9:59 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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