

Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 2:13 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Water Act Modernization Discussion Paper Feedback

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
() on 2010 04 29, at 02:13:19

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ContactMethod: Email

Principles_Support: Support

Goal1_Support: Strongly Support

Goal1_Comments: Environmental flows should be the top priority in water allocation.

EnviroFlow: Standards

WaterAllocationPlan: Required

DecisionMaker: Must Follow

DumpingProhibition: Amend

DumpingProhibition_Comments: A comment (not another option): In urban & suburban areas, the stormwater management system itself is one of the chief causes of stream pollution -- washing tailpipe toxins, cigarette butts, litter, oil drips, plastic debris, etc, directly into waterways and out to the ocean. The Water Act should require local governments to move toward infiltration drainage systems that remove pollutants and recharge groundwater.

Goal2_Support: Support

Goal2_Options: Delegated

BenefitsOfSharedRoles: Local residents have a far more intimate knowledge of water flows and water quality, than any arms-length expert can possibly have. We need to harness this knowledge. True stewardship is utterly impossible without strong local participation and close daily observation of conditions.

Goal3_Support: Support

WaterUseEfficiency_2: Use of incentives and economic instruments

WaterUseEfficiency_Comments: Water is far too cheap in BC. Beyond a basic living allowance, all water use should be priced high -- WITH ALL REVENUES GOING TO PUBLIC MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCE. High prices are the best way to (a) encourage conservation/efficiency and (b) ensure that, if water becomes an item of trade under NAFTA, the Americans pay appropriately for it.

AdminEfficiencyOptions_SelfReg: Required self-registration

AdminEfficiencyOptions_WaterUse: Combine admin and efficiency

WaterScarcityTemporary_Options: Hierarchy of uses

WaterScarcityPermanent_Options: Through a mandatory Water Management Planning process

Goal4_Support: Support

Thresholds_Options: 500+100

PriorityAreas_Options: Combine priority areas

FedAndProvLegIntegration: The Federal Fisheries Act forbids introduction of any deleterious substance into fish-bearing waters, yet our stormwater management system introduces toxins into these waters on a daily basis. Since DFO doesn't seem inclined to enforce its own Act, the BC Water Act should do so, by requiring stormwater runoff to be filtered through vegetation and soil before it is introduced into streams.

AtRiskWatershedCriteria: All watersheds are at risk.

AffectOnCommunity: Hard to predict.

Improve_InterestsTakenIntoAccount: I'm concerned that public ownership of water is not emphasized in the proposals. Private ownership -- i.e. introducing the profit motive into provision of water -- could be an environmental disaster in the making.

KindsOfCollaborativeProcesses: Stormwater engineers need to be more involved in issues of water supply. Our present stormwater management system wastes enormous amounts of fresh water, sending it directly into creeks and rivers and then out to the ocean. Instead, we should be designing stormwater management systems that

allow this water to soak into the ground, thus replenishing groundwater and providing creeks and rivers with a steady supply of filtered water.

AdequatelyEquipFutureGenerations: Only if our education system manages to inspire these future generations to take part in protecting water and other natural wealth.

WhatHaveWeMissed: The Water Act must address stormwater management as a critical issue for both water quality and groundwater replenishment. As development, impervious surfaces, and urban runoff spread up the Fraser Valley and elsewhere in BC, the water waste and pollution caused by our present stormwater management system become ever-greater problems.