

From: Bruce Edwards ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 11:44 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Cc: Cynthia; Elizabeth Pellizzari; Walter Neufeld
Subject: Comments on Water Act Modernisation and the Water Sustainability Act

Thank you for your good explanations and for seeking public input on our water.

Regarding wam_wsa-policy-proposal.pdf;

"Framework" page 5 "What we heard" omits the clear and ubiquitous "elephant in the room" demand that our water not be privatised, commodified or otherwise given to corporations that will sell it back to us at exorbitant prices (e.g. search for "Cochabamba water"). Water infrastructure must remain in the hands of government, which is somewhat accountable to citizens, not controlled by corporations which are not accountable to citizens. People who object that loss of control over our water and infrastructure couldn't happen in Canada should note that on March 17, both Abbotsford and Mission councils will debate a P3 plan for water from Stave Lake.

We are aware that our BC & federal governments policies are consistent with Milt Friedman's "Chicago program" (see "The End of America; a letter of warning to a young patriot" for a concise explanation) and we, the intended victims, of course, strenuously object. We suspect that you Ministry of Environment staff members are being pressured to comply. Please resist. The super-rich will take anything from us and from you that we do not protect.

I do not see protection for aquifer recharge areas. They can be poisoned by mines, pit, quarries, crushers and other industrial activities. Protection for ground water and recharge areas should trump the Mines Act. Aquifers and recharge areas need mapping so they can be protected.

1. Protect Stream Health &... page 8 "What we heard" seems to omit incentives in addition to enforceable standards. "Chicago program" staff cuts must be reversed so compliance & enforcement will not continue to be toothless. C&E must apply to big \$corporations more stringently than to small corporations and individuals.
2. Consider Water in Land-Use Decisions; page 9 "What we heard..." "Balance...economic priorities" rings alarm bells about privatisation/commodification of water. Don't privatise or commodify our water!!! PWOs must trump the Mines Act, F&RPA, O&GAA,etc
3. Regulate Groundwater Use; Page 9; Residents must be allowed to extract a reasonable, modest amount from wells without charge, and an incentive rebate offered for usage below that amount. Incentives for low-flush toilets etc No License should be required for residential/domestic use for wells delivering less than 20 gpm.
4. Regulate During Scarcity page 10 "What we heard..." makes no distinction between water for livestock production and water for production of fruit and vegetables. According to Ecological Integrity... ed Pimentel et al 2001, producing a pound of beef uses 12,000 gallons of water, whereas producing a pound of potatoes uses only 60 gallons of water. Regulation during scarcity should penalise water used to produce livestock, and should reward the efficient production of fruits and vegetables.
5. Improve Security, Water Use Efficiency, and Conservation; Tradable permits commodify water, which is not acceptable. A system of education, incentives and penalties is needed to encourage efficient use and conservation. Free drinking water for all and food security are paramount.
6. Measure and report; This looks good. Domestic licenses and private domestic well owners should be exempt, except in problem areas, where education and incentives should be used.
7. Enable a Range of Governance Approaches; This looks good. Local control (e.g. water boards) within a watershed or aquifer is most desirable

Many thanks for your work and receptiveness to input from citizens.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

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