From: nobody@scribe.env.gov.bc.ca
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 9:38:46 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 30, at 09:38:46

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

ContactMethod: Email

Principles_Support: Support

Principles_Comments: I support all the goals with the exception of item 5, i.e. "Rules and standards for water management are clearly defined, providing a predictable investment climate across the province. "

The problem is the phrase "predictable investment climate," a statement that clearly outlines the Provincial Government's intention to smooth the way for privatization (i.e. public-private partnerships) for municipal water services. I am absolutely opposed to P3 water and wastewater services.

As a volunteer with the Greater Victoria Water Watch Coalition I have spoken with thousands of Victorians over the past five years, and I can honestly tell you that the goals stated in item five are not shared by the general public.

(The Greater Victoria Water Watch Coalition (GVWWC) is a coalition of organizations and individuals who, since September 2005, have been active to ensure water/waste water systems remain publicly owned, operated and managed.)

Their position:

Water is a shared legacy, a public trust and a collective responsibility.

They declare:

Access to clean water is a human right.

Ownership, management and operation of water systems should be public.

Conservation is vital.

Water connects all life.

Goal1_Support: Strongly Support

EnviroFlow: Guidelines

WaterAllocationPlan: Required

DecisionMaker: Must Consider

DumpingProhibition: Amend

Goal2_Support: Support

Goal2_Comments: I feel that item 2, i.e. "Governance arrangements are flexible and responsive to future needs and values," is too open ended. I would like to see examples of possible scenarios being considered before supporting that statement.

Goal2_Options: Delegated

ScaleForWatershedPlanning: The studies I've read have indicated that a community-implemented watershed-based approach is best, in keeping with guidelines created by senior levels of govt.

Goal3_Support: Strongly Support

WaterUseEfficiency_1: Codes for efficient infrastructure and practices

AdminEfficiencyOptions_SelfReg: Required self-registration

AdminEfficiencyOptions_WaterUse: Report well levels

Flexibility_Comments: Item A bullet 2 - I have concerns about the phrase "to use water differently... to use water for a higher economic purpose," as no examples are given. The statement is too open ended.

WaterAllocationSystem_Options: Priority use

WaterScarcityTemporary_Options: Sharing

WaterScarcityPermanent_Options: Water Management Planning upon request

Goal4_Support: Strongly Support

PriorityAreas_Options: Combine priority areas

FedAndProvLegIntegration: I do not support the concept of water as an economic good. I do not believe that it should be commercialized as bottled water or sold in bulk across the border.

I believe that the water act should guarantee British Columbians the right to a basic amount of water required for consumption and sanitation.

I believe that the new water act should honour the fact that most Canadians consider that water is a human right, and that the "right to water" should be clearly stated in the act.

I also believe that the Provincial Government should advocate on behalf of British Columbians that Canada should enshrine water as a human right.

Improve_InterestsTakenIntoAccount: I do not support the concept of water as an economic good. I do not believe that it should be commercialized as bottled water or sold in bulk across the border.

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