

Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 11:46 PM  
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 23:45:57

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Principles\_Comments: DRAFT PRINCIPLES;

1. I approve.
2. I approve wholeheartedly.
3. Real science should form the basis, but it must be DISINTERESTED
4. including LOCAL government and affected citizens
5. The purpose of the Act must NOT be to privatise and commercialise OUR water.
6. I agree ONLY if this "flexibility" is aimed at providing water to sustain BC residents, NOT to profit transnational corporations.
7. The emphasis on serving "investors" is VERY disturbing, and is consistent with Campbell gov't policy of giving away public property to curry favour with transnational corporations at our expense; e.g. BC Rail, BC Hydro and our rivers, under the guise of "economic growth".  
We need water to survive. We STRONGLY oppose placing "investment" before citizens' lives and livelihoods.
8. I agree, but groundwater, aquifers and their recharge areas must be diligently protected.

Goal1\_Support: Support

Goal1\_Comments: Groundwater and aquifer recharge areas must be diligently protected.

EnviroFlow: Standards

EnviroFlow\_Comments: Education, enforcement and compliance MUST be funded

WaterAllocationPlan: Required

DecisionMaker: Must Follow

DecisionMaker\_Comments: Community-based allocation

WaterAllocationPlan\_Conditions: with strong community involvement

DumpingProhibition: Amend

DumpingProhibition\_Comments: Education, enforcement and compliance MUST be funded

Goal2\_Support: Strongly Support

Goal2\_Comments: Education, enforcement and compliance MUST be funded The "partners" must be BC residents, NOT transnational corporations.

Goal2\_Options: Shared

ScaleForWatershedPlanning: at the watershed and aquifer level, coordinated within BC, but crossing provincial boundaries where appropriate to steward our water wisely.

GovernanceFundingSolutions: Tax transnational corporations, instead of granting them de facto tax exemption.

Accountability: Involvement of citizens

BenefitsOfSharedRoles: This may save our/children's/grandchildren's lives and livelihoods by preventing politicians from giving away our water to curry favour. Jobs consisting of helping transnational corporations to loot OUR resources are not an acceptable means of livelihood.

Goal3\_Support: Strongly Support

Goal3\_Comments: Again, BC citizens must have priority, NOT transnational corporations

WaterUseEfficiency\_1: Codes for efficient infrastructure and practices

WaterUseEfficiency\_2: Use of incentives and economic instruments

WaterUseEfficiency\_Comments: Incentives work best, but penalties must be enforced if incentives fail.

AdminEfficiencyOptions\_PermittedUse: Permitted use different

AdminEfficiencyOptions\_SelfReg: Required self-registration

AdministrativeEfficiency\_Comments: Incentives work best, but penalties must be enforced if incentives fail.

PermittedUseConsiderations: Need for sustaining a modest life is the first priority. Need for sustaining a modest non-destructive livelihood is the second priority.

AdminEfficiencyOptions\_WaterUse: Combine admin and efficiency

AdminEfficiencyWaterUse\_Comments: ALL of the above, plus mandatory enforced registration of wells.

Flexibility\_Support: Strongly Support

WaterAllocationSystem\_Options: Priority use

WaterAllocationSystem\_Comments: FITFER is "fit fer" a change! A BALANCED approach is needed, granting long-time users precedence, IF and ONLY IF their use is sustainable, efficient and benefits the community.

WaterScarcityTemporary\_Options: Hierarchy of uses

WaterScarcityTemporary\_Comments: Hierarchy of uses, but use must be efficient and wise.

WaterScarcityPermanent\_Options: Water Management Planning upon request

WaterScarcityPermanent\_Comments: Reckless waste of water must be PROACTIVELY prevented.

Goal4\_Support: Strongly Support

Goal4\_Comments: Aquifer recharge areas must be effectively protected. Well-head protection must be mandatory.

Thresholds\_Options: 500+100

PriorityAreas\_Options: Combine priority areas

PriorityAreas\_Comments: ALL of the above. (Aquifer mapping is sketchy at best. Funding is needed to adequately map aquifers, and determine their recharge areas.)

FedAndProvLegIntegration: Logging can potentially contaminate aquifers/groundwater, but cutting permits are granted without due consideration for groundwater. Logging legislation and regulations must be revised to provide adequate protection.

AtRiskWatershedCriteria: Citizens' need for water to sustain life and responsible modest livelihood, and the ecosystem's need for the water to sustain itself - and us.

AffectOnCommunity: We need the planet and its creatures to survive intact to sustain human life. The increasing scarcity of water because of poor stewardship

of the planet threatens the survival of our grandchildren. Science is increasingly finding that estimates of our lead-time to protect water is rapidly diminishing. One specific threat to my personal deep-well drinking supply is a neighbour who apparently used his property as a dumping-ground for toxic waste, that may contaminate our aquifer.

**Improve\_InterestsTakenIntoAccount:** Please continue to incorporate citizens' concerns and suggestions into your draft legislation. Please draft measures to be PRO-ACTIVE rather than reactive.

**KindsOfCollaborativeProcesses:** Establish, support and fund community-based water stewardship boards/commissions/committees representing, perhaps as part of regional district government, and draft legislation to give adequate weight to their concerns and proposals. Such commissions can pro-actively provide necessary local knowledge and negotiate equitable arrangements for sharing and protecting our water.

**AdequatelyEquipFutureGenerations:** The greatest threat is the policy of self-serving politicians to give away our water to those who are rich, greedy and ruthless. If the new Water Act can impede that, you at BC ENvironment will have served future generations. Your caring and knowledgeable diligence is much appreciated.

**WhatHaveWeMissed:** Adequate provision for defining and protecting aquifer recharge areas. We can't protect them if we don't know where they are, without draconian measures which deem ALL land to be a potential recharge area.