

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 3:42 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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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, February 15, 2011 3:57 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.

Though the items listed below have been compiled by researchers at the Our Water BC website, i FULLY agree with their analysis of the shortcomings of the "modernized" Water Act, and urge you to consider the following proposals.

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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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 3:59 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** 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. In particular, I want to ensure that water remains a public good and that all policy gaps that would allow for privatization of water are closed firmly.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:00 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*



**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:01 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:08 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:12 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:15 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:16 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:20 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:26 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*



**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:29 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** 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. With global warming a reality and BC already dealing with its effects, we need to find new ways to protect and conserve water in this province. Please think like a watershed and do what is best for all the ecosystems that depend on this precious gift.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:33 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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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.

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:38 PM

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:42 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

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**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:53 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 5:02 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** 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. I would like to see education and laws to ensure British Columbians become the best conservers of water in their homes and gardens.

Sincerely,

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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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 5:06 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.
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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 5:07 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 5:08 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 5:09 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 5:24 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 5:26 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 5:34 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 5:46 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.

I am concerned, however, that this proposed Water Sustainability Act, in an effort to accommodate too many interests, ultimately will not provide sustainability to BC's water resource.

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 seems to propose the commodification of water; through water licence trading and water markets it proposes 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, and one which acknowledges water as a human right (and a necessity for the natural environment), not as a commodity, for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 5:48 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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 6:18 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

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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.

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, February 15, 2011 6:36 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. I agree with the comments outlined below and trust that you will listen and take action on these suggestions.

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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 6:41 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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**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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 6:46 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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- Government regulation of the ways in which licensees can exercise water entitlement ensuring efficient and sustainable use of resources.

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

Sincerely,  
Robert Blair

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 6:53 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, February 15, 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.

I note several positive initiatives in the proposal, such as regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements, and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

Some significant gaps remain in the policy proposal that must be addressed if there is to be a balance between competing demands for water, ensuring watersheds are healthy, and best serving 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.

**In-Stream Flows:** While the policy proposal appears to recognize the need to balance the needs of water for people and water requirements to support nature and ecological systems, the proposed in-stream flow measures would only apply to new water users and not to the 44,000 current water licence holders.

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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, February 15, 2011 7:09 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.

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, February 15, 2011 7:11 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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 7:25 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.

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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, February 15, 2011 7:25 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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 7:29 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, February 15, 2011 7:31 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, February 15, 2011 7:38 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.

I appreciate some aspects of the proposal ,however, there are some significant gaps and concerns in the proposal that should be addressed 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), 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 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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 7:42 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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 7:58 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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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:05 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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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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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:06 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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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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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:24 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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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:39 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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:44 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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:53 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. We need the strongest possible protection for the most important substance on the planet - water. It is critical that we enact strict regulations as to water usage and water flow and keep water rights within the public domain. We must not open the door to privatization of our water through lax water allocation regimes.

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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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 9:17 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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 9:21 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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 9:51 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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 9:55 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 9:56 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:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 10:14 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.

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 10:22 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 10:53 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 11:13 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*



**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 11:27 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 11:49 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 1:10 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 3:47 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 4:14 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 5:06 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 7:31 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.

I cannot overemphasize that government and decision making bodiew must preserve the maximum amount of decision making for future generations and this likely means retrieveing and limiting rights to present and future licensees rather than expanding this program.

The tenure system on forests is such an example of what can/could and will happen if checks, balances and solid controls are not in place. The banking/corporate industry will gobble up controls in such a similar way limiting future choices and destroying opportunity that we can not yet determine.

The forest example demonstrates this point extremely well as government finds itself in a bankrupting position to protect adequate habit for endangered species or to create large wilderness parks in logical areas close to urban centres. Instead they are restricted due to the compensation that is argued after the fact. 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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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 7:37 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

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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, February 16, 2011 8:29 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 8:34 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 8:51 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 8:54 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 9:39 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 9:43 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 9:46 AM

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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, February 16, 2011 9:52 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 9:54 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*



**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 9:56 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 10:23 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 10:43 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 10:48 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 10:55 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 10:58 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. I'm sending the sample letter 'as is' because it reflects the issues and concerns with respect to what is arguably our most precious commodity. Please keep that in mind as you hammer out the details for our Water sustainability Act. It's not about opportunities for selling water, or bowing to business-related demands that would compromise our misuse our water and water systems, nor about the tired old rationale that we need to compromise for the 'good of the economy'. It's time to retool the economy for the good of the people, present and future. We can be the most sophisticated people in the world but we're nothing without water, and politically we're absolutely powerless without water.

As our elected representatives, it is your duty to take the long term vision and safeguard the resources that really matter. The colonial period of exporting everything we have for an easy dollar is long gone.

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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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 11:01 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 11:09 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 11:17 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

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- Licences to permit specified use and quantities only and prohibit sale of surplus water. Sale of water not to be licenced as a specified use. Quantities to be adjustable according to available water on an annual basis.

**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.

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, February 16, 2011 11:30 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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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 11:34 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 12:30 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** 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.

One of the ways to consider engaging people in water awareness could be to meter the home & business use of water. Water is a resource for all of us to share. If we pay per use, even if it is (& should remain) a negligible sum, we will become aware of our consumption.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 12:48 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.

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 12:50 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

thank you for making positive changes to the water (sustainability) act such as: regulations to groundwater, improved protection for riparian areas and aquatic ecosystems as well as stronger conservation and efficiency requirements.

however, "first-in-time, first-in-right" (Fitfir) is an insufficient water allocation framework yet goes unamended; private water interests are strengthened under this scheme with the inclusion of "water markets" and "water trading". please reconsider this approach in the spirit of "sustainability" and british columbia's interest and instead 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.

thank you for the opportunity to comment on such matters,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 1:03 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.

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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, February 16, 2011 1:40 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:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 1:42 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 2:02 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 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:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 4:27 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 4:36 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 4:37 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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**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:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 4:38 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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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 4:46 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*



**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 4:48 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 6:22 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** 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.

\*\*Its extremely important to me that we manage our water resource in such a way as not to take away from Canadians, but to have a consultation process on how our resources will be managed effectively and with accountability from government and citizens alike.\*\* - \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 6:23 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

Dear Sir/Madam:

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 yours,

Larry Sharp

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 6:35 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 6:35 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 7:10 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 9:01 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** 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.

I feel it is with utmost importance that the colossal waste of taxpayers' money be halted and that the current federal and provincial governments amend the legislation so that it is legally possible to end environmental assessment processes when they are no longer sensible to continue. It is dire necessity to end the review that is currently with Axor for Glacier Howser.

Power Proposal

Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*



From: \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 9:24 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Dear Minister Coell, Mr. Slater, and the Living Water Smart team:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Policy Proposal for a new B.C. Water Sustainability Act.

As a resident of British Columbia, I am thankful for our water resources and concerned about their long-term protection.

I would like the new legislation to be more rigorous in its protection of water as a publicly-owned resource.

To that aim, I would like the legislation to be drafted so that it unequivocally asserts the public ownership of water.

The legislation needs to be clear that water rights are TEMPORARY, and that water is a PUBLIC resource.

The legislation should include a commitment to conducting assessments of watershed function BEFORE new water use allocations (licences) are given.

It needs to legally establish "minimum" environmental flow standards in each major river or stream system.

It should establish a regulatory system to ensure people don't waste water, to mandate conservation during times of drought, and to prioritize water uses based on societal criteria.

It should establish regulations for groundwater extractions in chronic problem areas.

Once again, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this policy proposal document.

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of B.C.'s water.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 9:52 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:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 10:41 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 11:06 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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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:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 12:30 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

There are some positive initiatives in the proposed Water Sustainability Act, 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.

One of the ways to consider engaging people in water awareness could be to meter the home & business use of water. Water is a resource for all of us to share. If we pay per use, even if it is (& should remain) a negligible sum, we will become aware of our consumption.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 2:54 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, February 17, 2011 8:27 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.

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 9:32 AM

**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, February 17, 2011 9:41 AM

**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, February 17, 2011 9:48 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 11:49 AM

**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, February 17, 2011 12:40 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, February 17, 2011 12:59 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, February 17, 2011 1:08 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, February 17, 2011 1:09 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 1:48 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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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:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 3:46 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:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 4:03 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.

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 5:18 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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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 5:34 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, February 17, 2011 6:55 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, February 17, 2011 7:32 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, February 17, 2011 9:16 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, February 17, 2011 10:53 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.

As a Nanaimo (& RDN) resident, I am particularly concerned that development, past and proposed for the future is over-stressing our water resources. The main focus of problems just now are the Yellow Point aquifer (depleting), the private ownership of the Nanaimo water supply water shed and the insufficient supply for the Parksville-Qualicum area. Too, there's the issue of our lack of local food production (we import 90% of our food on Van Island) and the water needed to support improving local production.

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:** Friday, February 18, 2011 6:13 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.

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:** Friday, February 18, 2011 9:15 AM

**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, February 18, 2011 10:56 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2011 5:14 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2011 6:11 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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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, February 19, 2011 8:25 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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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2011 8:55 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:** Saturday, February 19, 2011 7:44 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:** Saturday, February 19, 2011 7:51 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:** Saturday, February 19, 2011 4:11 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:** Saturday, February 19, 2011 11:58 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, February 20, 2011 7:41 AM

**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, February 20, 2011 9:05 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:** Sunday, February 20, 2011 10:38 AM

**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, February 20, 2011 11:57 AM

**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, February 20, 2011 11:58 AM

**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, February 20, 2011 12:00 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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**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:** Sunday, February 20, 2011 12:00 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:** Joachim Ruether [mailto:ruether@shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 20, 2011 12:01 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,  
Joachim Ruether  
3648 Glenview Cres.  
North Vancouver, BC V7R 3E8  
[ruether@shaw.ca](mailto:ruether@shaw.ca)

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Sunday, February 20, 2011 1:32 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, February 20, 2011 3:29 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:** Sunday, February 20, 2011 7:17 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, February 20, 2011 9:07 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. Please, life and future generations not only depend on it but deserve it.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Sunday, February 20, 2011 10:06 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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I look forward to a strong new law to protect BC’s water, for current and future generations.

Having access to clean, safe water is a basic human right and should not be tampered with; do not commodify BC's water supply!

Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Monday, February 21, 2011 6:10 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, February 21, 2011 7:07 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:** Monday, February 21, 2011 11:33 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.

Positive initiatives include regulation of groundwater, improved conservation and efficiency requirements and protection of stream health and aquatic ecosystems.

But significant problems remain:

**Water Allocations:** The Water Sustainability Act proposal does not tackle the FITFIR regime, in proposing water licence trading and water markets to deal with allocation that could open the door to the privatization of water. British Columbians, including me, are opposed to water privatization. Instead of moving BC towards water markets, the proposed legislation should address:

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

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A new Water Sustainability Act should:

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- 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:** The new policy proposal attempts to enable a variety of governance approaches, but are vague. A better system of water governance would recognize that governance policy, regulations and statutes that includes citizen engagement, watershed management groups with multiple sectors represented, and empowered local governments creates a better model for decision-making about BC 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:** Monday, February 21, 2011 11:43 AM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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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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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Monday, February 21, 2011 8:39 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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**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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**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:** Monday, February 21, 2011 8:50 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:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 7:47 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,  
Rachel Darvill

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 2:16 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.

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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, February 22, 2011 2:16 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** 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:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 7:49 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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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 10:37 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:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 8:51 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:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 12:01 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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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, February 25, 2011 10:11 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:** Friday, February 25, 2011 6:26 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.

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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, February 25, 2011 12:47 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Saturday, February 26, 2011 7:24 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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Sincerely,

\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Sunday, February 27, 2011 11:00 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:

- 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.

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, February 28, 2011 11:01 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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\*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**From:** \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:07 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Subject:** Water Sustainability Act

Attn: Living Water Smart,

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