

From: ***Personal Identifiers Removed***
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 6:24 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Fw: Water Sustainability Act

Comments for the New B.C. Water Sustainability Act

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the New B.C. Water Sustainability Act

My name is Gyula Kiss, Councillor, District of Coldstream.

My major concern about water is the erosion of low cost water for agriculture.

In the North Okanagan the proposed new Master Water Plan envisions the treatment of up to 110 ML of irrigation water to domestic quality, including filtration. Up to 95% of this expensive water will be used for crop irrigation at the expense of domestic customers. It will also make access to low cost agricultural water more restricted and some customers with smaller parcels and agricultural water allocation will be denied low cost water. These customers essentially lose their agricultural land and may end up seeking legal action to remove their land from the land reserve. This could undermine the agricultural land reserve act.

The only solution I can see is total separation of the two water delivery systems. This would allow agricultural water customers to manage their own system and domestic customers to receive highly treated water for their use only. Cheap water is untreated and delivered via gravity. The existing delivery system is capable to provide irrigation water without any diversions and or other manipulations.

There are two requirements that would allow this to happen:

1. Gradual implementation of the filtration requirement of the already UV treated Kalamalka Lake water, such as deferment, and
2. Shifting the diversion point from upstream of contributing water sources to Kalamalka and or Okanagan Lakes.

In the case of the Greater Vernon Water Utility the most cost effective solution would be total separation of domestic and agricultural water systems and shifting the point of diversion to Okanagan Lake. GVW has a total of nearly 25,000 ML of water licenses available on Kalamalka Lake, Deer Creek/Coldstream Creek, BX Creek and Okanagan Lake. The combination of these licenses would be able to provide domestic water for the region for a period of 60-100 years without further license requests. With the cooperation of Interior Health by deferring filtration requirements until after the cost of borrowing for the total separation is completed, GVW would have the best water delivery systems in the Valley.

Okanagan Lake is the most reliable water supply and has the best quality raw water.

Having spent \$68 million of domestic customers funds, intending to use an additional \$110 million and then continue with the combined irrigation/domestic distribution system represents poorly spent funds. This system is virtually the same as the one we started from and is a waste of taxpayers money.

Thank you again for your time.

Respectfully submitted

Gyula Kiss
Councillor
Coldstream