



Malahat Nation

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February 15th, 2024

Malahat Referral No: R22071

RE: Capital Regional District 2022 Regional Water Supply Master Plan

Malahat Nation is writing this letter regarding the Capital Regional District (CRD) Regional Water Supply Master Plan.

The referral sent to Malahat Nation in June of 2022 included limited information on the proposed Master plan, and did not allow for adequate time for meaningful consultation. Further to this Malahat sent a follow up letter in November of 2022, outlining the Nation's concerns and request for ongoing discussion and information sharing, and did not receive any further communication from CRD regarding the Master plan.

It is important that this Master plan is based on reliable projections and data before moving forward with this plan. Malahat Nation is aware that there are gaps in the understanding of watershed health within the CRD. As part of this, the CRD needs to work to fill these gaps as effectively as possible to ensure the projections are based on sound data. It is vital that the Capital Regional District pursues meaningful and ongoing engagement with all affected First Nations throughout the process. At present Malahat Nation does not feel that there has been adequate consultation and engagement with the Nation.

As described in the letter sent by Malahat Nation dated October 27th 2022, the Goldstream watershed has great importance for First Nations and this area is included in Malahat's territory. The executive summary described the Goldstream watershed as a valuable secondary source, and acknowledged that there are gaps in the understanding of hydrology in the area. W̱SÁNEĆ Nations have strong cultural ties to the area, and consultation must acknowledge this connection to the land and the Aboriginal rights and title these

First Nations hold, including Douglas Treaty rights. Please refer to the October 22nd letter to see Malahat Nation's specific information sharing requests.

It would be to the CRD's benefit to seek input from First Nations prior to moving forward with the Master plan. Engaging with First Nations participants down the road after CRD has made decisions related to the Master plan without meaningfully engaging at the planning stage would not be honouring the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Malahat Nation looks forward to more fulsome engagement going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish at the end.

Gordon Harry
Chief
Malahat Nation