- <u>SUBJECT</u> CRD's liability as owner of Hartland Landfill site in the event of well water contamination.
- **<u>ISSUE</u>** Willis Point Residents request a commitment from CRD Board that community water will extended to their community at the expense of the CRD, in the event their wells are contaminated by activities on the Hartland Landfill site.

BACKGROUND

The Hartland landfill provides solid waste disposal services for the Capital Regional District. The 33 hectare site is located in Saanich on a 320 hectare parcel, owned by the CRD. In addition to the CRD's landfill and recycling operations, an anaerobic digester will be operating on the Hartland lands to process sewage sludge from Salt Spring Island and all CRD municipalities excluding Highlands and Metchosin.

Residents of Willis Point are extremely concerned about their future water supply and the ramifications in the event of possible contamination. Although there has not been well water contamination from the land-fill in the past, the introduction of anaerobic digestion and the treatment of bio solids is considered by Willis Point residents to be a real threat to the aqua fir they share with Hartland Land-fill.

Mr. Lapham and Ms. Hutcheson on behalf of the Core Area Core Wastewater Treatment Project Board, presented a document to the Willis Point community called the Capital Regional District Hartland Landfill Good Neighbour Practices. It stated:

This is an outline of operational practices for the Capital Regional District (CRD) lands and facilities located at Hartland Landfill.

If there is a report of a hazardous condition, spill or other similar emergency arising from CRD operations at Hartland Landfill, the CRD will immediately investigate and take all necessary steps to ensure the protection of public health and safety, and to limit and mitigate any impacts to the environment in accordance with applicable legislation.

If a hazardous condition with the potential to cause harm to neighbouring properties or groundwater is confirmed, CRD staff will take all necessary steps to notify the appropriate authorities, respond to and manage the condition, and contact any party or individual that might be impacted with instructions and information to ensure the protection of public health and safety. In such circumstances the CRD will, as necessary, implement other measures such as providing supplies or services to mitigate impacts.

If a hazardous condition is confirmed and has an ongoing or long-term impact on groundwater the CRD will implement measures to comply with any legislative obligations or requirements and take steps necessary to remedy and remediate the situation, which may include, subject to compliance with all applicable legislative requirements, the provision of an alternative water supply.

The residents of Willis Point request that the CRD Board endorse a policy that would guarantee the extension of community water to any properties that have permanent or long lasting well water contamination as a result of activities on the Hartland lands.

Recommendation

The CRD Board adopt a policy that guarantees the extension of community water, at CRD expense to any properties that have permanent or long lasting well water contamination as a result of activities on the CRD owned Hartland lands.

Submitted by: Director Mike Hicks

Attachment:

1. Capital Regional District Hartland Landfill Good Neighbour Practices.