



SCRD Board Chair Response to “We Need New Water Now” Flyers

Sechelt, BC – September 3, 2021- Late yesterday, members of the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Board were made aware of flyers circulating from an organization calling itself “The POST Group.” The SCRD Board and SCRD Staff have met with members of this group in the past and have provided them with factual information about our water supply projects. Unfortunately, it is clear that this factual information was not included in the flyer.

Before I speak about water supply projects, the most concerning content of the flyer was the targeting of an SCRD staff member. I want “The POST Group” to be aware that this talented, hardworking staff member is a valued leader in the SCRD. This dedicated staff member is working long hours and has essentially given up another Summer with his family to ensure that plans are in place for securing our water supply. Targeting our staff will never be acceptable. In fact, targeting individual staff members of any local government will likely result in people choosing to leave the Sunshine Coast and make it incredibly difficult to replace them.

Regarding the water supply project that is mentioned throughout the flyer, the Dusty Road Well. While this water source did show great promise, it is unfortunately located next to an active gravel mining operation that plans to expand in the area above the well. This mining expansion will result in significant changes to the groundwater flows in the area and a reduced flow towards the well. In addition, the expansion could create a risk of breaching the aquifer supplying the well. This would reduce the water supply potential from this well. Besides Provincial approval, this project would also require support from the shísháhlh Nation and Lehigh Hanson.

I also note that “The POST Group” thinks that we could have this source online by next Summer. We have been waiting for a Provincial water license for the Church Road well site for over two-years. If anyone in “The POST Group” knows of anyone who can fast track a water license then please contact me immediately.

There is one glaring omission from this flyer – climate change and the effect it has had on our region and our water supply. I suggest that future versions of the flyer include this information. While the SCRD Board appreciates the push for advocacy in this flyer, there are many other ways to do so that do not seek to divide our community or target individual staff members and elected officials.

We encourage members of “The POST Group” to request to appear as a delegation at a Board or Infrastructure Services Committee meeting. Our Board looks forward to hearing your concerns and ideas in a public forum. Here is our delegation request form: <https://www.scrd.ca/Delegation>

If any members of “The POST Group” think they can do a better job of solving our water supply issue then why not run in the 2022 election? Helpful links if you are considering running for local office can be found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/governance-powers/general-local-elections/thinking-of-running>

Factual information on SCR D Water Projects can be found at www.scrd.ca/letstalk

Lori Pratt,
SCR D Board Chair