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July 17, 2019

Attn: Larisa Hutcheson, P. Eng  
General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services  
Capital Regional District  
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria B.C.  
V8W 1R7

To: Larisa Hutcheson,

I am writing to you on behalf of the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee. Thank you for your letter of June 28<sup>th</sup> responding to our letter of June 24<sup>th</sup> concerning the Capital Regional District's modification of Gardom Pond. In our letter the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee requested that work be halted to allow for broader community consultation and further study of the potential impacts on groundwater levels, water for fire fighting, and potential impacts on fragile ecosystems.

While the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee understands the issues with the dam risks elucidated in your letter, we continue to be concerned that the Capital Regional District has not addressed the issues raised in our letter, particularly potential impacts on groundwater resources for residents who rely on wells in the vicinity of Gardom Pond. You mention that you are planning to return the pond to its "natural" state. Given the increased use of aquifer water by the additional subdivision in Razor Point, the entire area is no longer in a "natural" state, thus any decision regarding the pond needs to consider scientific evidence on the *current* state of water pressure in the area and how that might influence salt water intrusion into the ground water. As there is currently a water study under way by the Islands Trust, and the only other known study in the area stresses caution on this issue, it is unclear what evidence the CRD has used to determine going back to a preexisting level of water level, and therefore pressure, is better than leaving the lake at the current level for aquifer health. We ask you to consider and address these concerns, in consultation with the community, before proceeding with the work.

We also note that the grant the CRD has received is not restricted to the work being undertaken, but can also be used for climate change related initiatives. This is an important consideration as the money being used to decommission the pond could potentially be repurposed for dam reinforcement as a source of needed fire prevention water.

Finally, it is important to state that the issues raised above indicate that Gardom Pond is a community resource, not solely the responsibility of the 7 water licencees and thus funding responsibility should not fall on these licencees alone but on the CRD and Province more generally in their efforts to support the work of the Islands Trust in preserving and protecting through provision of security around potable water and fire suppression resources in our region.

We would appreciate the Capital Regional District Board's cooperation in addressing the community's concerns and ensure the best outcome for the environment and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Patrick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laura Patrick, Chair  
North Pender Island Local Trust Committee

cc: North Pender Island Local Trust Committee  
cc: Capital Regional District Board Members  
cc: Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Office, CRD  
cc: Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Office, Islands Trust