

Dear Members of the Planning Council,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the rezoning application to subdivide the rural property located at 8000 Birch Way. (Legal Description Lot 7 District Lots 1582 and 4663 Group 1 New Westminster District Plan LMP36842)

As a resident of this community, I believe it is crucial to address the potential impact that future development could have on our environment and local wildlife.

My specific concerns are as follows:

**Water Resources:** The proposed subdivision could significantly strain our local water resources. We have a massive water shortage. Recurring droughts, severe heat waves are effecting the natural water systems and increased demand from new developments could deplete these resources. Moreover, construction and increased human activity could lead to contamination of water supplies, affecting both residents and the natural ecosystem. It is essential to thoroughly assess the impact on water availability and quality before proceeding with any rezoning decisions.

**Preservation of the Natural Setting:** One of the most significant attributes of our community is its pristine natural environment. The open spaces, forests contribute to the rural character and provide residents with a high quality of life. Rezoning and subdividing this property could set a precedent for further development, gradually eroding the natural landscape that we value so highly. It is imperative to consider the long-term impact on the character of our community and the preservation of our natural surroundings.

**Wildlife:** Our rural area is home to a diverse range of wildlife species, many of which could be adversely affected by increased human activity and habitat fragmentation. Subdividing the property may lead to the destruction of vital habitats, forcing animals to relocate or, worse, leading to a decline in local wildlife populations. Protecting these habitats is not only crucial for the animals themselves but also for maintaining the ecological balance and natural beauty of our region.

To address these concerns, I suggest that if the subdivision is approved, it should include restrictions or covenants prohibiting additional building on the newly subdivided parcels, particularly since this property already has 2 large principle dwellings, occupied by two unrelated families. This would help mitigate the impact on water resources and wildlife, while preserving the natural setting that defines our community. Implementing such restrictions would balance development needs with environmental protection and ensure the long-term sustainability of our region.

In conclusion, I urge the Planning Council to carefully consider these concerns and the potential long-term consequences of approving the rezoning application. Protecting our

water resources should be a top priority! In addition, wildlife and natural setting should be given high importance, to ensure the sustainability and quality of life for current and future residents.

I ask to please be notified of the date and time the APC meeting is to take place, as I wish to participate in future discussion.

Kind regards,

**Ilana Schonwetter, PFP, CPCA, CIM, FCSI**