



Kim Richter Responses to the SRES Questionnaire **(November 5, 2008)**

1. Water Management Plan (WMP)

What would you add to the WMP so that it contains enough measures to actually restore water tables in the Hopington to historic levels that are adequate for fish habitat and private wells? As part of your answer, please comment whether you would retain the moratorium on development over the Hopington aquifer until we have restored the water table and solved the water quality (nitrate, etc.) issues.

The plan needs better mechanisms for working with the provincial government to resolve agriculture/residential conflicts. It also needs prohibitions against the removal of water for water exports or use in households and businesses on a sewer as opposed to a septic system.

Residential users on private septic systems are not the problem and should not be metered. However, large groundwater users, especially the Township, are a problem. To start, all users of Township water on the GVRD sewer system should be metered to promote water conservation. We should then phase them off groundwater onto GVRD water.

It makes no sense to take water out of Langley aquifers and flush it down the toilet to GVRD's sewer system in Richmond. This practice is endangering our rivers, streams and agriculture. It must stop.

With respect to agriculture, the plan should require best practices in farming such as drip irrigation and better animal waste processing. Summer lawn sprinkling should be restricted or banned on all properties over the Hopington.

The moratorium on development should be retained and better effort made to restrict the number of accessory buildings with separate suites.

2. Fort Langley Floodplain

What would you do to address the deadlock on the Fort Langley floodplain? As part of your answer, please comment on the ideas from SRES, the Fort Langley Community Association and the Friends of the Trans Canada Trail for a cooperative new vision for the floodplain.

Using part of the floodplain as a floodplain and park is an excellent idea and one that I definitely support. I think the Township should buy at fair market value the section of land that the river currently snakes through north of the fish trap. This land should then be used for flooding and park. Doing so will also help protect the adjacent agricultural land.

3. Authentic Consultations

What would you do to engage the public in TOL issues in ways that are more effective and authentic than current approaches (for example the lack of meaningful public involvement in Fort Langley waterfront planning)? Please comment on engaging the public at the outset in issues so the public is given the opportunity to be involved in generation of ideas and in planning out of those ideas rather than being presented with a fully formed plan that is difficult to change.

The current process of presenting detailed plans for public comment is seen to lack transparency and overlooks the valuable input that residents could provide. A new planning process that consists of town hall meetings and resident participation in planning charrettes well in advance of any detailed plans being made should be employed. Furthermore, the planning process should not begin with any preconceived notions or be used as a “selling” tactic on local residents. It must be an open and genuine process.

Residents of the community have a vested interest in the future of their community and have many good ideas that should be considered and incorporated before detailed plans are made.

I would also support the idea of local planning advisory committees being established in each community in the township.