

Oct 30, 2014

The Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Environment
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Victoria, BC V8W 9E3

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The Honourable Coralee Oakes
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
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Dear Ministers Polak and Oakes,

I am the Regional Director of Juan de Fuca and wish to add my concerns to the CRD's letter today dated Oct. 30, concerning proposed building regulations in response to Tsunami and rising sea level risks on the Coast of British Columbia and in particular the Juan de Fuca.

The bottom line recommendation asks that buildings be raised from 1.5 meters to roughly 5 meters in response to a 1 meter rise in sea level. The reasons given for this huge increase involves allowing for a projected storm surge. The storm surge , in reality varies from 0 inches to a few feet depending on the location. My home, for instance is located in the Sooke Basin where there can never be a storm surge because of the protected harbour. This would be the same for the Beecher Bay First Nation's development , Esquimalt Harbour and even Bamfield Harbour in the neighboring Regional District. It make absolutely no sense to have a universal increase based on storm surge.

The Tsunami set back of 30 meters versus the existing 15 meters is also seriously flawed. People are encouraged to evacuate to a higher elevation rather than further back to avoid a Tsunami Wave. The recent Tsunami in Japan travelled 10 kilometers inland. 15 meters at the same level is meaningless.

The universal 5 meter standard for building and 30 meter Tsuanmi set back will absolutely devastate thousands of homes and properties in the CRD and Coastal Vancouver Island. I am aware that very few communities have responded to your department's recommendations which I would assume is because of the ongoing municipal elections.

This is the most important issue, that I have witnessed in my two terms on the CRD and I would ask that you stop the process, re-evaluate the basis for the recommendations and reach out for practical solutions to counter rising sea levels and the threat of a Tsuammi.

Thank you
Mike Hicks

Regional Director
Juan de Fuca Electoral Area
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