



February 4, 2024

Directors - Cowichan Valley Regional District

With regard to the application to the CVRD to support the removal of the dyke around the area of the Dinsdale farm that will be flooded by the removal of the last dyke on the foreshore.

Removal of this land from the ALR would be a **giant step backwards**.

The area that will be flooded by removing this dyke will destroy an important source of feed for local dairy farms that supply fresh local products for our area. At a time when there are large concerns about sustainable local food products, it would seem that taking land out of food production is a step backwards.

The field that will be flooded also supports large numbers of migratory birds who stop here to feed and rest. The Cowichan Valley is claimed to be an Important Bird Area. This project flies against this claim. These birds need the feed they get from the land, as not all are salt water feeders. This area is protected and safe for them to rest and feed. Is there not a law that protects their feeding grounds?

This dyke also provides a buffer against flooding of the road and properties on the other side of the Cowichan Bay Road, across from the field. During high winter winds the wind driven water could be pushed across the road and also driven up the Koksilah river and cause increased flooding along that section of Cowichan Bay road that already floods and also possibly into the housing and businesses along Francis Street and in the area north of the bridge on the main highway.

This dyke is a very important recreational walking area that cannot compare to any other location in the Cowichan valley. There are no aspects of good land management that would indicate that removing this dyke would be beneficial in any way.

Please give due consideration to the long term effects of this decision and make it in the best interests of the wild life, the people who enjoy the recreation that the area provides and the people whose living, homes and lifestyles rely on the presence of this dyke and **do not support this application and plan**.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ida Hayek".

Ida Hayek  
5200 Francis St.  
Koksilah, BC V0R 2C0

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julius Hayek".

Julius Hayek

cc: Ms. Kim Grout, Agricultural Land Commission