



Arrowsmith
Parks and
Land-Use
Council

An association of individuals and groups committed
to engaging with community, government and
industry to advocate for the conservation and
expansion of parks and protected areas within the
Mount Arrowsmith watershed

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Town of Qualicum Beach
#201 - 660 Primrose Street
Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1S7

February 1, 2019

Dear Mayor Wiese and Town Councillors,

Recently the Strathcona Regional District Board of Directors passed the following resolution to be carried forward to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC)

WHEREAS water is an essential resource upon which all life, including all ecosystems and all local communities depend,

AND WHEREAS water is a public heritage and a public trust for present and future generations and access to water must not be compromised by commercial operations relating to commercial water bottling or commercial bulk water exports,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Premier of British Columbia and the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development be requested to immediately cease the licensing and extraction of groundwater for commercial water bottling and/or bulk water exports from aquifers.

The UN reports that demand for water will increase by 55% over the next 15 years. By that time, global water resources will meet only 60% of the world's demand.

Companies have a tendency to look at water not as a public trust, but as a commodity that will garner huge profits. The marketplace, trade agreements and corporations will put mounting pressures on an already depleted eco-system.

British Columbia has experienced persistent and consistent drought levels over the past number of years. Snow pack and water flows have been decreasing putting pressure on our aquifers and water courses.

In order to be proactive rather than reactive to the burdens, challenges and changes in our water supply, it is important for communities in British Columbia to plan for the protection of our drinking water and the protection of our watersheds.

We urge our publicly elected officials to vote to support the Strathcona Regional District's motion this April at the AVICC meeting. Vote to protect this fragile and finite public trust.

Thank you,

Julie Austin
on behalf of Arrowsmith Parks and Land-use Council