



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2018

I would like to take some time to address the neighbourhood along the southern border in Anmore, Anmore Green Estates, and the status of their septic system. This is an issue that has been of concern for the Village for some time and I would like to offer the Village's perspective on the current state of affairs and how we propose to move forward to resolve this issue. I would like to make it clear that the Village of Anmore does not authorize or regulate septic systems anywhere with the Village.

For over ten years, conversations have occurred as to the functionality of Anmore Green Estates septic system. During these conversations, concerns have been brought forth with regard to overuse through additional illegal suites, foreign containment being flushed into the system and the lack of regular maintenance. In 2007, Port Moody asked that a \$40,000 engineering study be commissioned by Anmore Green Estates as to the feasibility of connecting their sewer system, which the Strata never executed.

However, over the past year, the Ministry of Environment, who originally approved the system, and is responsible for regulating and overseeing the monitoring of the system, has raised concerns regarding contamination flowing onto neighbouring properties from Anmore Green Estates.

The concerns were first brought to light from testing that was performed by Anmore Green Estates Strata and forwarded to the Ministry late last year. Found within the test results were traces of contaminants consistent with a possible failing septic system at one of the test holes adjacent to Anmore Green Estates septic pump house.

School District 43, Port Moody, and the Village of Anmore were alerted to these results and notified that a Ministerial pollution abatement order had been issued to Anmore Green Estates requiring them to rectify the situation immediately and put precautionary fencing and signage in place ensuring public health wouldn't be compromised.

I can assure you that once this information came to light, Anmore Council's first priority was to ensure the health and safety of all residents and students



frequenting the area and vicinity. The Village then engaged with the Ministry as to next steps it would take to resolve the issue.

Both the School District and Port Moody conducted subsequent testing ensuring their respective properties weren't being affected and the results have since come back inconclusive.

The Ministry of Environment has now ordered Anmore to complete a Village wide Liquid Waste Management Plan by November 30, 2018.

The Liquid Waste Management Plan process will consider all possibilities for addressing sewage treatment in Anmore from maintaining the current practice of treating sewage on-site and the possibility of connecting Anmore Green Estates to the regional sewer, which would require becoming a member of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD). Please note that the Liquid Waste Management Plan process has not begun and Council has not made any conclusions as to what the best way to proceed is. Council will await the outcome of the process before making any final decisions.

It is worth noting that becoming a member of the GVS&DD contradicts Anmore's Official Community Plan (OCP) and would require an amendment to our OCP. This would take considerable time to complete and requires extensive public consultation. As well, there are significant costs associated with membership in the GVS&DD, including the cost of connection, membership and usage. Additional costs would also include regional development cost charges per household connected and up charges for connection through Port Moody.

Anmore Council has informed the Ministry during a meeting this past Thursday September 13, 2018 that we will fully comply with the order and await the findings in securing a satisfactory remedy for all. The Village is looking forward to working with all parties involved, particularly Anmore Green Estates, in an effort to finally resolve this matter

Sincerely,



John McEwen

Mayor

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