

FRIENDS OF ISLAND VIEW BEACH

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December 12, 2016

**Board of Directors
Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1R7**

Dear Board of Directors,

Re: Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan

The Friends of Island View Beach (FOIVB) was formed three years ago, and 5,300 people have signed our petition to “*Leave Island View Beach Alone.*” Given that level of support, the Steering Committee of FOIVB take our responsibility to the petitioners very seriously. We update 900 members by email regularly. The steering committee comprises hikers, dog owners, nature lovers, kite-surfers, farmers, horse owners, people that reside near the park and other frequent visitors to Island View Beach Regional Park. The FOIVB advocates for the fact based multi-use of Island View Beach Regional Park.

We wish to clarify, we are not associated with a newly formed group that has taken our name and registered as the Friends of Island View Beach *Society*.

We view the new plan as an improvement over the first draft plan and although we do not agree with all aspects of the plan, we see the new plan as an attempt to compromise. The new plan takes into consideration that the majority of park visitors are dog owners and proposes to protect sensitive areas from people and dogs with fencing. We suggested this direction at stakeholder meetings, however we believe that the fencing proposed is excessive, and particularly dangerous on both sides of the berm.

We would have preferred that sea level rise be rated high priority in the plan rather than low as we view sea level rise to be the greatest risk to the park. Failure to plan for sea level rise also puts at risk adjacent land owners such as Michell’s Farm and Tsawout First Nation.

The FOIVB recommended amendments (attached) to the CRD Parks Committee for their meeting November 16, 2016. The CRD Parks Committee did not accept any of our recommendations and is recommending the CRD Board adopt the new management plan. We recognize that no plan is perfect and the CRD can always adjust the plan to deal with new circumstances. Should matters arise, the FOIVB commit to work with the CRD to achieve the best results for all stakeholders.

On behalf of Friends of Island View Beach

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