

Friends of Island View Beach

Response to the CRD 2016 draft
proposal

Island View Beach Regional Park

July 8, 2016

Process had an agenda from the beginning.

Apparent conflict of interest

No transparency

None of the concerns raised by FOIVB given during Phase 1, 2, reflected in Phase 3 Draft plan

Rising sea levels

Rising sea levels threaten the existence of Island View Beach in a relatively short time.

This is a CRD map showing that Island View Beach will be inundated with just a **0.5m** rise in sea level

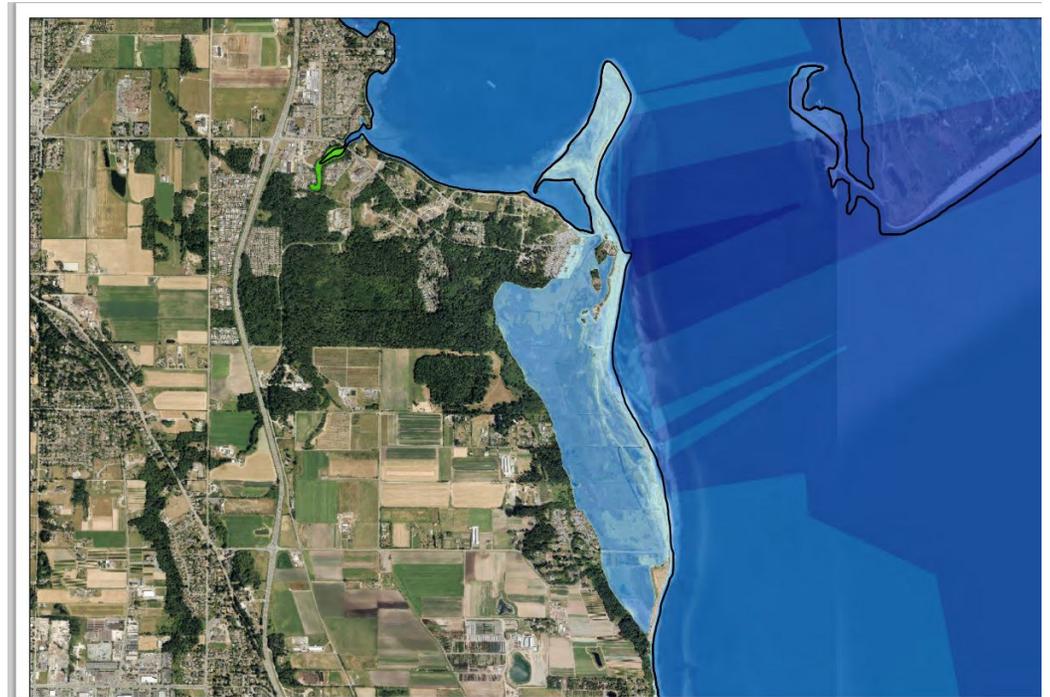


A CRD report said a **0.5m** sea level rise will inundate Island View Beach.

But in June 2016 a draft report from the CRD Environment Committee quoted new studies suggesting sea level rise will be between **1m - 3m** in just over 30 years

This CRD map shows IVB inundated with 1m sea level rise.

Rising sea levels con't



Rising sea levels levels con't

Waves breaking over
the south berm,
December 5, 2015



The inland side of
the berm that the
waves were
breaking over



Rising sea levels con't





Rising sea levels

con't

Some of the at-risk housing



Rising sea levels con't

The latest report from the CRD Environmental Committee says:

*“These estimates have yet to be fully reviewed and accepted by the broader scientific community. **Nevertheless, if correct, they suggest a catastrophic outcome if serious mitigation does not occur very quickly.**”*

The position of the FOIVB is that the impact of rising sea level will be so devastating to Island View Beach, that to make any changes to the operation of Island View Beach without FIRST studying rising sea level, is irresponsible and a waste of taxpayer funds.

The FOIVB call on the CRD to not proceed further until the timing of rising sea level is better known, and a protective strategy is implemented.

The public were denied the opportunity to make an informed, thoughtful and rational presentation on the CRD's proposals at Island View Beach Regional Park

because:

the CRD's environmental
presentation contained
inconsistencies that were not
supported by the evidence

and because:

the CRD did not produce
factual, scientific evidence to
support its claims

and because:

the CRD based much of its claims on the Ministry of Environment, Stacey Filatow 2009 Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping report, which

- was fatally flawed; and
- not done to the 2006 standard for mapping ecosystems at risk

and because:

the CRD kept key reports from the public

- the Fairbarns report of July 2014
- the Aecom Coastal Sea Level Rise Risk Assessment of January 2015

As a consequence:

The Friends of Island View Beach take the position that because the public were so misinformed and uninformed, that the CRD is precluded from proceeding with a new management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

The FOIVB call for an independent environmental assessment to be done for the park, in conjunction with an independent study of the timing and consequences of rising sea level, and that these reports form the basis of any new park management plan.

Incorrect – “constructing a large berm along the shore line to hold back the tide”

Island View Beach – 1936



In the past 85 years, the biggest change to the landscape has been the efforts to remove water from the site for increasing agricultural value and reducing mosquito habitat.

These archival photos illustrate the effort invested in ditching the area for drainage and constructing a large berm along the shoreline to hold back the tide.

Based on local historical information, this work was conducted in 1936¹ although the photos are dated 1937 in the archival records. It is not clear if this work spanned two years, although the project was large, and quite a construction accomplishment at that time.

Fact

No berm was built along the CRD lands until the 1950's – some 20 years after the ditches were built in 1936.

The claim by the CRD that a “large berm” was built in 1936 was in error.

H. BLAKENEY
SUPERINTENDENT OF WORKS

TELEPHONES: GARDEN 4166
COLQUITZ 91

JOHN B. TRIBE
C.M.C. AND TREASURER

CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

3680 DOUGLAS STREET

VICTORIA, B. C.

December 11th, 1945.

Sup. Blakeney
re Island View Beach

The Reeve and Council,
The Corporation of the District of Saanich.

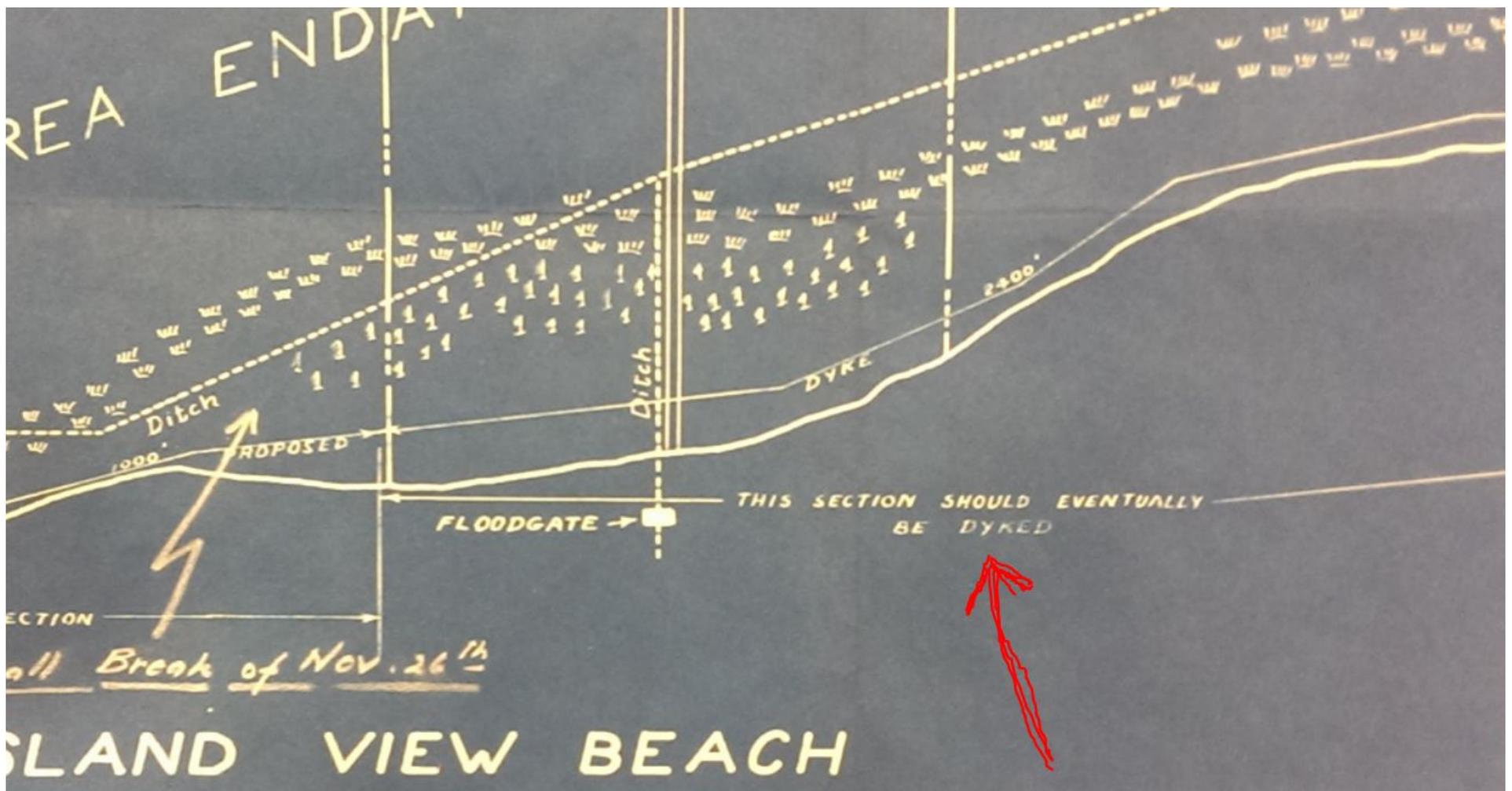
Dear Sirs:

I have made an examination of the seafront on Island View Beach particularly with regard to the break-through of November 26th when many thousands of gallons of sea water flooded the adjacent low lying land during a severe south-easterly storm at high tide.

The 1945 report of the Saanich Superintendent of Works speaks of the “natural dyke” on what is now the CRD lands

The total length of the beach fronting the low lying lands is approximately 7,000 feet and the area of the low lying lands potentially endangered by flooding is approximately 160 acres. The northerly 3,400 feet of beach is not as vulnerable to breaks as the southerly 2,600 feet as it generally tends to face the north-easterly and also the natural dike is slightly higher.

The **1945** Saanich report on Island View Beach identifies the current CRD lands and says “This area should eventually be dyked”.

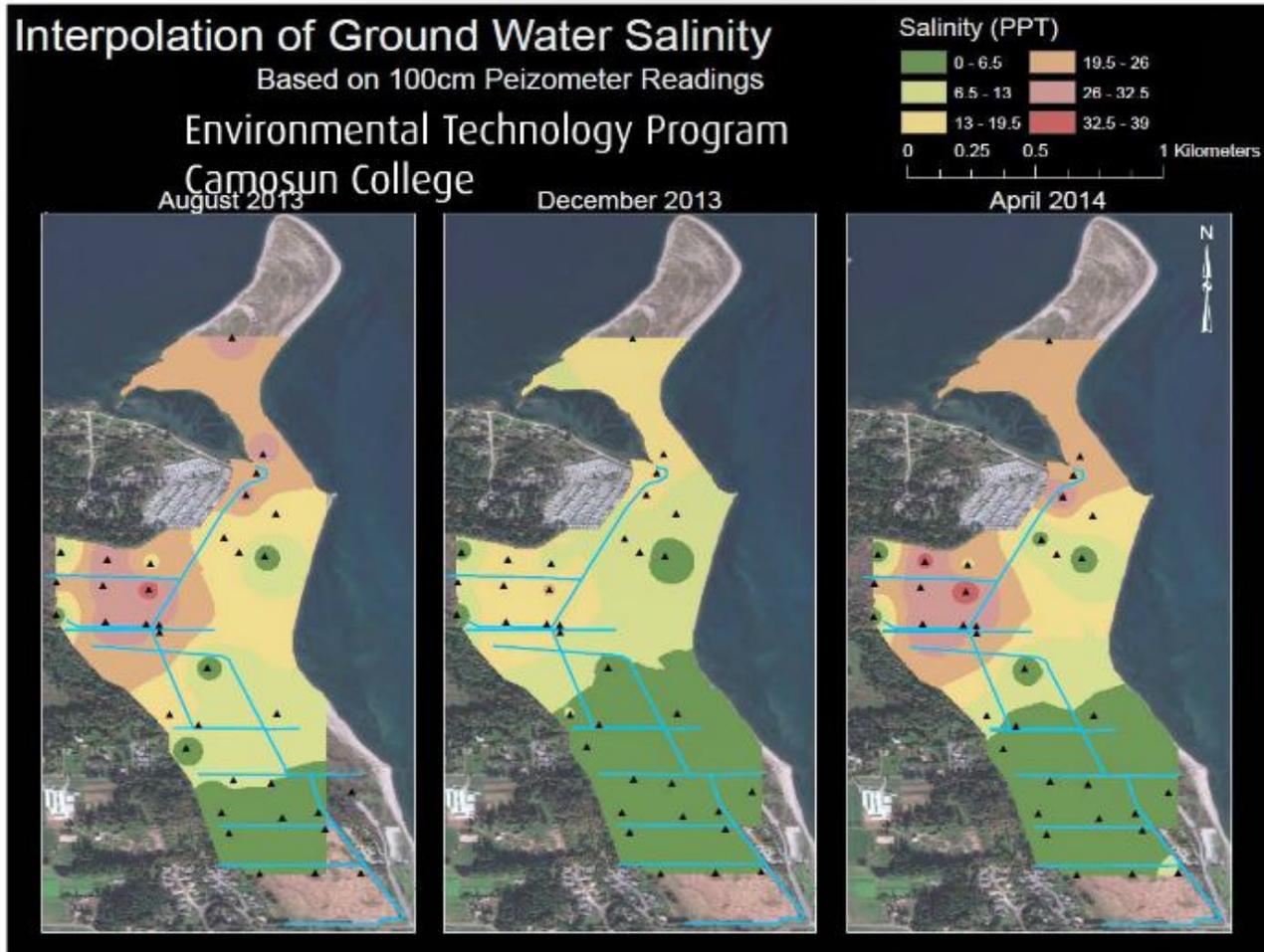


Inconsistency

Ground Water



Making a difference...together



Inconsistency

Ground Water

The Camosun College Environmental Technology Program has assessed groundwater at Island View Beach with a study conducted in 2013 and 2014.

The study looked at seasonal changes in salinity in a series of groundwater wells installed at over 30 locations.

On these maps, the orange and red zones are considered salt¹ water, the yellow and light green would be considered brackish¹ (between salt and fresh) and the darker green would be considered fresh¹ to mildly brackish.

The data show that in late summer and early spring the area is dominated by salt and brackish water. During the peak of the rainy season in December, the influence of freshwater is slightly more, particularly in the southern portion of the study area, but water is predominantly brackish.

¹The US Office of Naval Research defines brackish and fresh water criteria. Freshwater salinity is usually less than 0.5 ppt. Water in between 0.5 and 17 ppt is called brackish. Water above this value is considered salt water. Average ocean salinity is 35 ppt. and ranges about 32 and 37 ppt.
Office of Naval Research <http://www.onr.navy.mil/focus/ocean/water/salinity1.htm>

The inconsistency about the Camosun study

The CRD did not disclose that the Tsawout lands, where the highest salinity was reported, have been flooded with salt water from the failed flapper gate for something like 25 years. This man made event is a likely cause of the high salinity found there.

The fatal flaw in the TEM report

The Ministry of Environment did a Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping of Cordova Shore in 2008 using a photo from 2005.

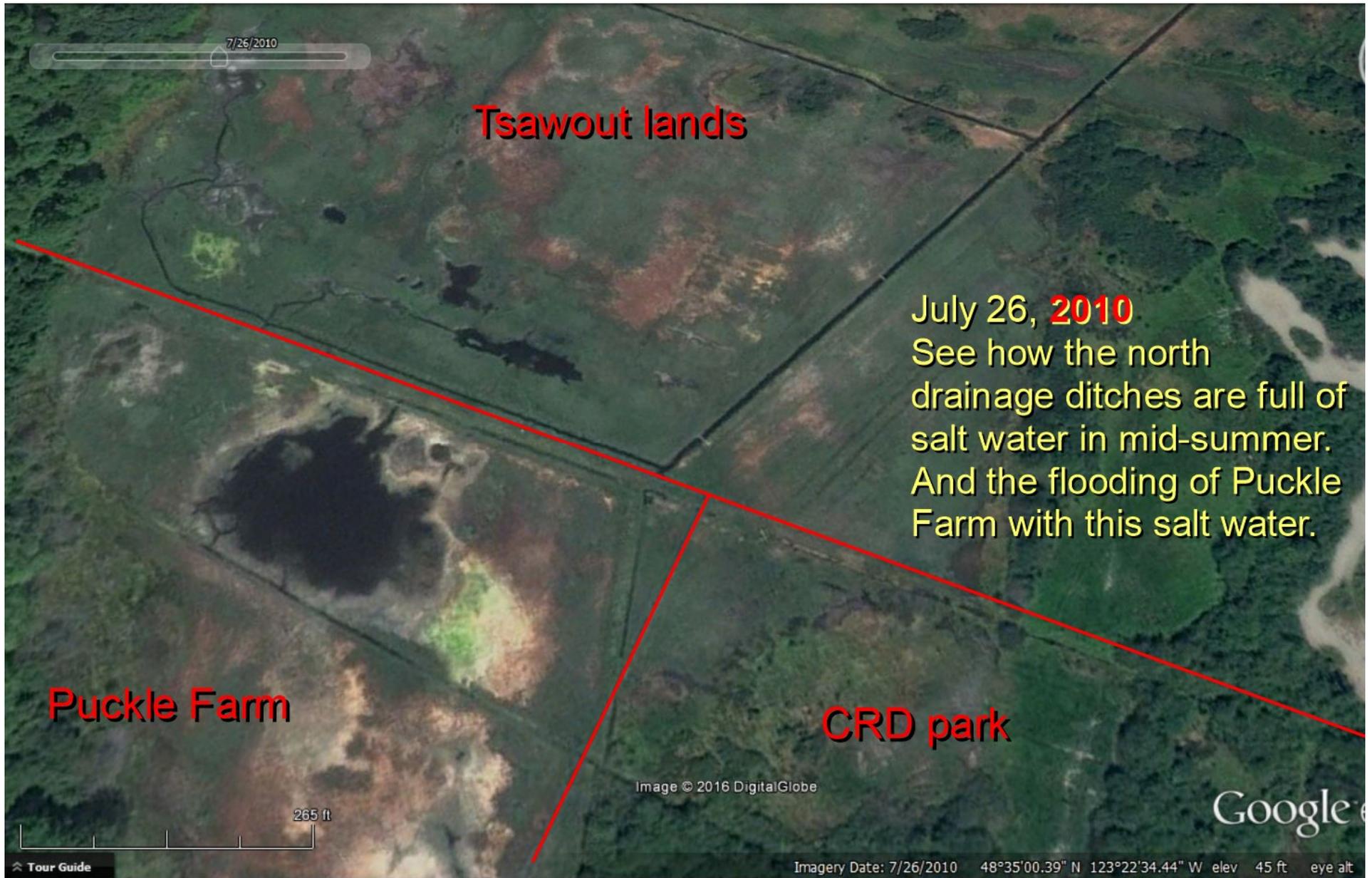
During that time the flapper gate in the Tsawout drainage system was wide open and allowed salt water to flow freely up the Tsawout ditch and tidally flood the interior lands of the Tsawout flatlands, Puckle Farm and the CRD park with salt water.

The north drainage flapper gate wide open for 20+ years

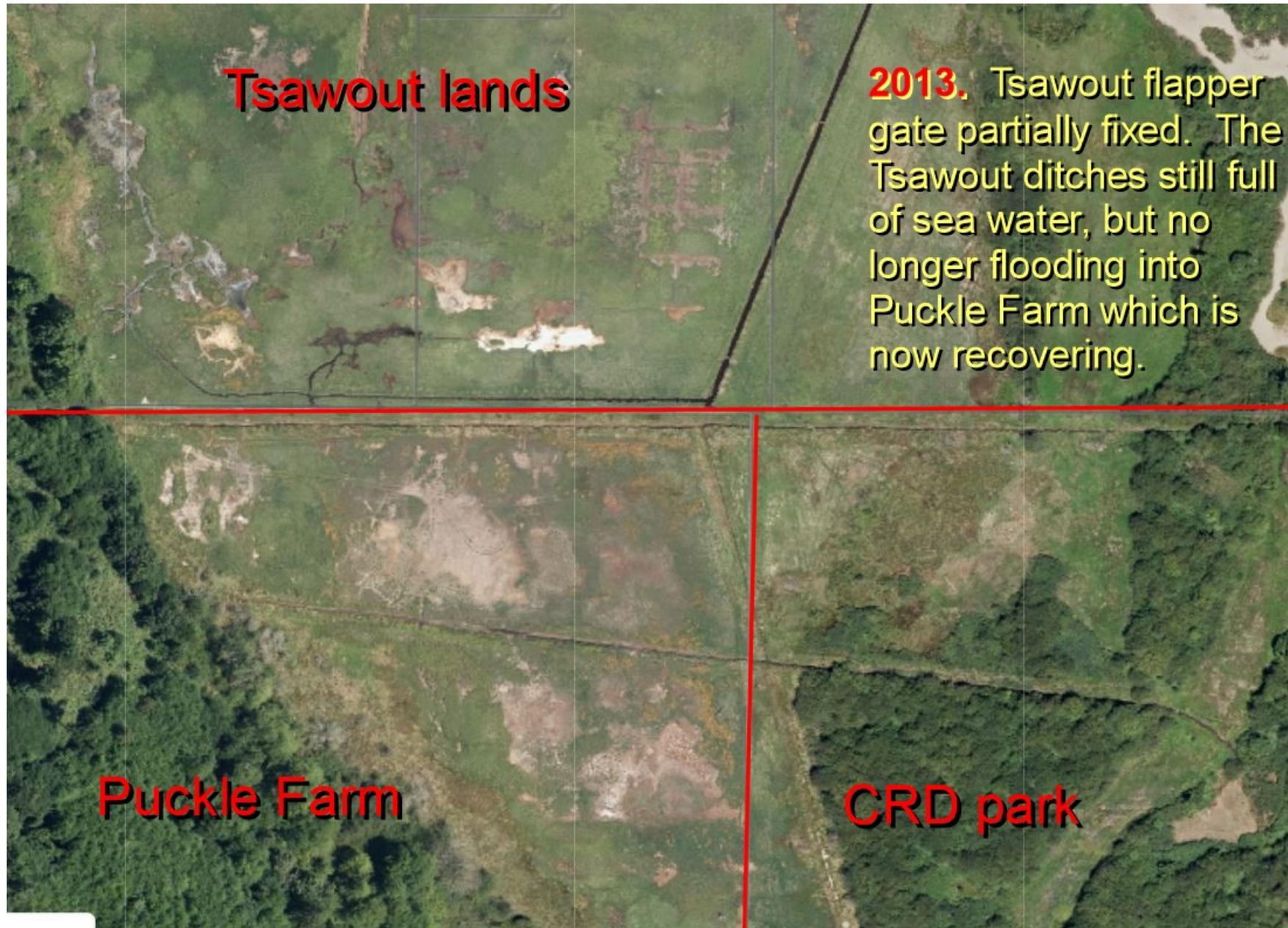




Salt water flooding caused by the failed flapper gate



The land after the flapper gate was partially fixed.

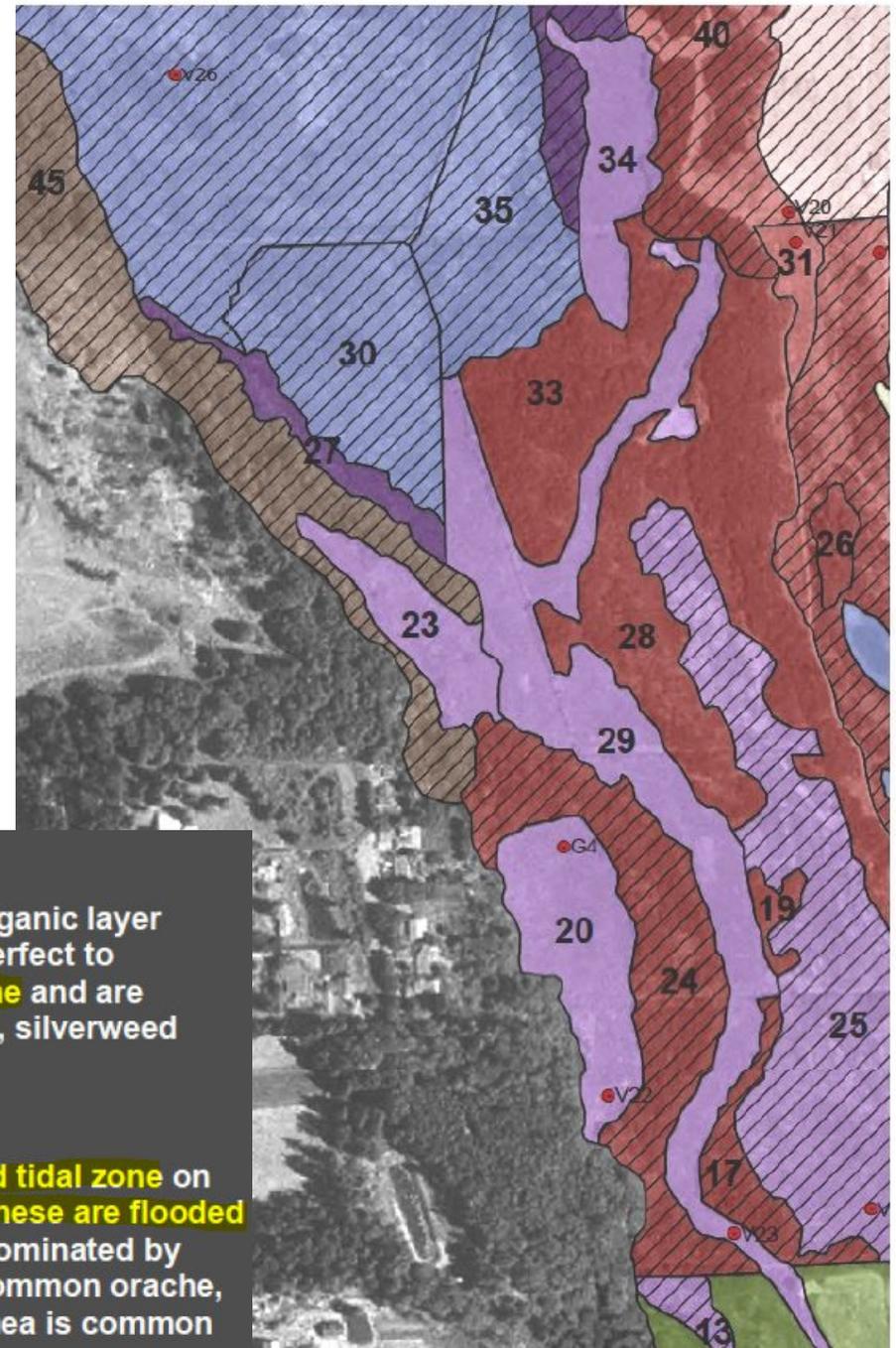


In common with the authors of the Cordova Strategy at the time, the MoE staff mistook the man made salt water flooding for a natural salt marsh.

As a result, the TEM report mistakenly classified most of the land on the west as a tidal zone or intertidal zone.

The flawed 2009 TEM report showing much of the west side of the CRD park to be either **high intertidal zone**, or **tidal zone** that is “flooded daily for long periods”

There is no natural tidal action on this land. What the TEM authors saw in 2008 was flooding caused by the failed flapper gate



Ed03 - Arctic Rush - Alaska Plantain

Estuarine ecosystem occurring on sites with a thin organic layer over sandy marine sediments where drainage is imperfect to very poor. These sites occur in the **high intertidal zone** and are rich and wet. Vegetation is dominated by Arctic rush, silverweed and sea arrow-grass

Em03 - Seashore saltgrass

Estuary ecosystem occurring in the **lowest vegetated tidal zone** on poorly drained, fine sand to silt marine sediments. **These are flooded daily for prolonged periods.** Vegetation is typically dominated by seashore saltgrass but high cover of sea plantain, common orache, coast silverweed, American glasswort or fleshy jaumea is common in the study area.

The CRD may have been aware since 2012 that the TEM report was wrong, yet the CRD used it as their primary scientific reference in their presentations to the public through 2015 & 2016. The CRD also quoted this TEM report as their justification for their proposed Environmental Protection Zone.

The CRD should have been aware that the TEM report was not done to the 2006 RISC standard for mapping ecosystems at risk and sensitive ecosystems.

The map resolution did not meet those standards, and there were not sufficient onsite inspections.

Also the CRD did not disclose the limitations of the TEM report that the authors of that report identified.

Instead the CRD overstated the quality of the report.

No damage

No evidence has been shown by the CRD that any of the public activities in the park over the last 50 years, including hiking, dogs and horse riding, have caused damage to the park

We reject the proposal by the CRD to require dogs to be on leash in the park, other than in picnic areas.

We reject the CRD's proposal for a fenced dog park.

We support equestrian access
throughout the park.

We support the fencing of areas proven by independent experts to be environmentally at risk or sensitive, and that require protection.

We reject the proposal to hire park wardens

- the public does not want wardens,
- nor has any need been shown for them.

We reject the proposal for co-management of the park.

This park was purchased with tax payer funds and held in the name of the Capital Regional District for the benefit of all people of the region, and the CRD must be solely accountable for its management.

We question the claim of the CRD that there is strong support for more involvement of the Tsawout First Nation in the park.

This is not a slight on the Tsawout people, but our belief that the majority of the public come to the park for recreation.

We reject the CRD's proposal for a "coastal sand restoration" project because neither the need, nor the cost, have been disclosed.

We reject the CRD's proposal to work with the Province and the Tsawout to regulate dogs.

These are separate legal entities with very different responsibilities and objectives.

The draft plan is incomplete and proposes to leave major portions to be decided after public consultation has ended. This is not acceptable - the entire plan must be put to the public.

[Click here for examples](#)

We call for a prohibition on hunting of any kind in the park, using the same wording as is in the existing park plan that says:

“Hunting shall be prohibited in the park, including the use of predatory birds.”

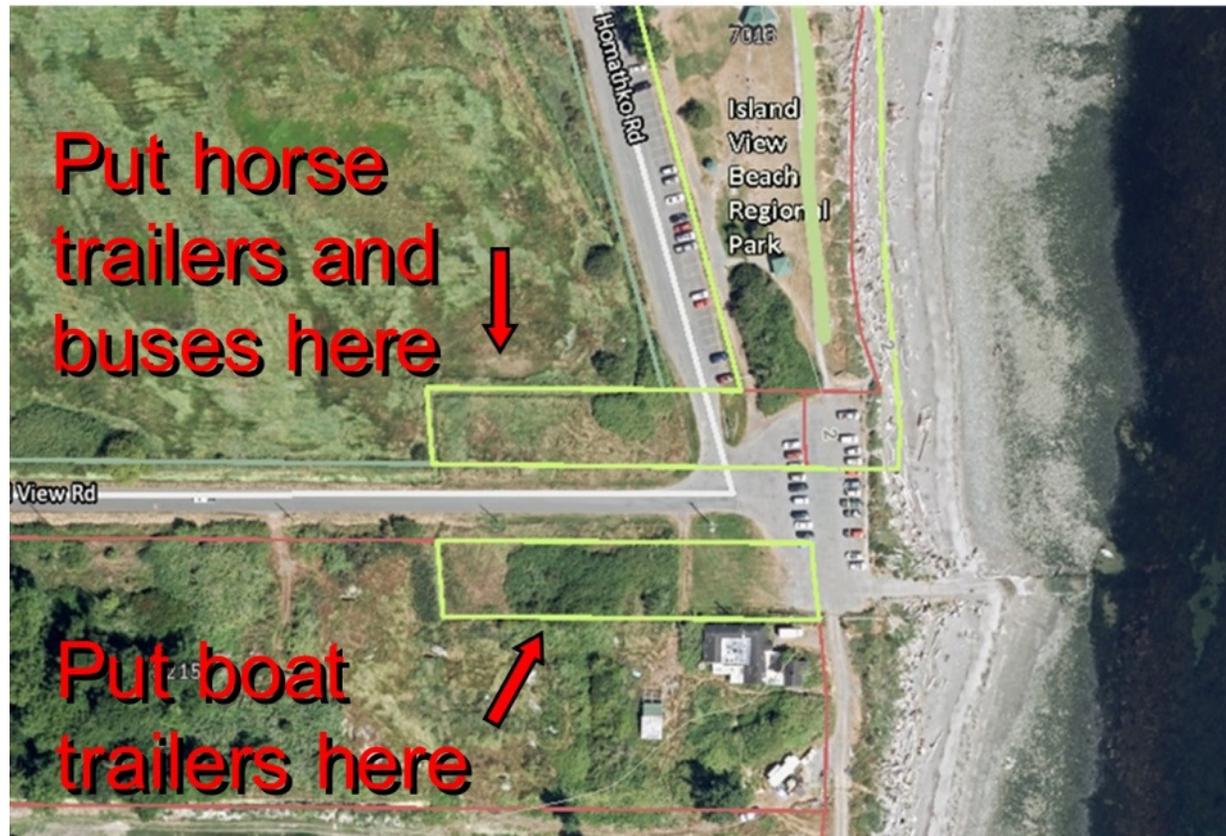
We call for **unconditional** commitments by the CRD

- to maintain the mosquito drainage ditches
- to maintain the mosquito control program
- to maintain the sea berm

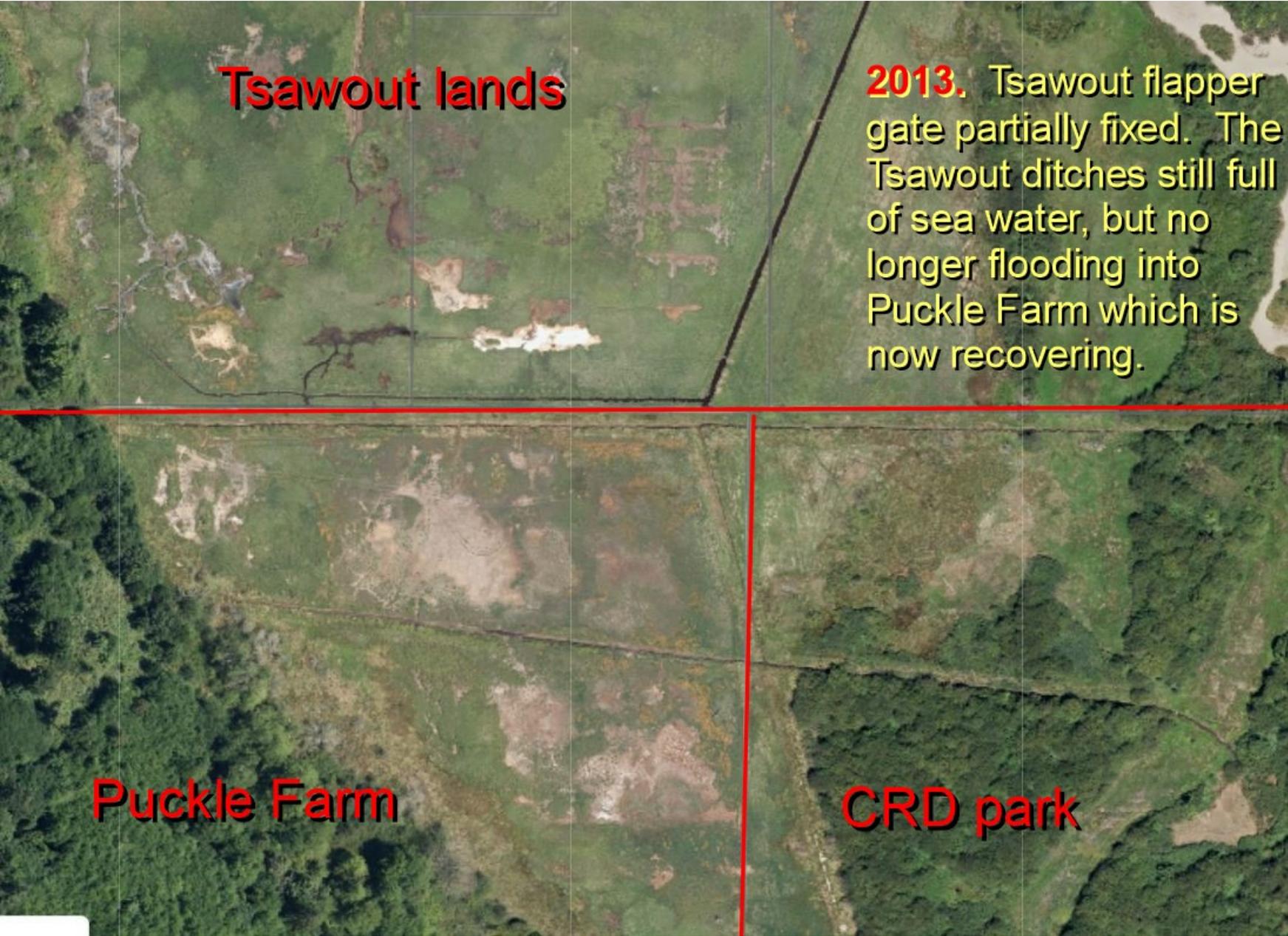
We support the repair and maintenance of the public boat launch.

We call on the CRD to work with the District of Central Saanich to make this happen.

The CRD owns two 1/2 acre parcels, one on each side of the end of Island View Road. We propose that the south parcel be dedicated for the parking of boat trailers, and the north parcel be made available for the parking of horse trailers and buses.



The flapper gate on the Tsawout drainage ditch failed some 25 years ago, allowing salt water to flow up the ditch and contaminate the environment and change the ecosystem. We call on the CRD to assist the Tsawout to repair or replace this flapper gate so that in time the environment may recover.



Tsawout lands

2013. Tsawout flapper gate partially fixed. The Tsawout ditches still full of sea water, but no longer flooding into Puckle Farm which is now recovering.

Puckle Farm

CRD park

We support the construction of a walking trail from the junction of Lamont Road and Highcrest Terrace, to run diagonally south down to the flat lands of the park.

To assist those with mobility issues, we ask the CRD to gravel the trail in the area shown in yellow.



Conclusion

Draft plan appears to try to implement goals of Cordova Strategy through back door

FOIVB wants independent professional review of draft plan .

Evidence based Terms of Reference for such review to be jointly agreed upon

Addendum

Establishment of a nature reserve

The following recommendation for the establishment of a nature reserve, first made by us in July 2015, was omitted from this presentation in error.

6 acre nature reserve

We note there are 6 acres in the park that are delineated by clear physical characteristics and not readily accessible by the public, that are ideal as a Nature Reserve. This is in the north end of the park, bounded by mosquito drainage ditches on two sides and is encircled by dense brush, with a swampy area running diagonally through it.

With a small amount of fencing at each end of the diagonal swamp area, this Nature Reserve would be totally protected from human activities, and the screen of dense brush it would keep it quiet too.

Proposed nature reserve



Background material

Following are extracts from the draft plan where key actions are intended to be undertaken by the CRD after the public consultation is ended:

Undertake a study to characterize dog use in the park and develop a comprehensive dog management strategy.

Develop an enclosed off-leash dog area; location to be determined



Examples of key actions intended after end of public consultation: con't

Identify, develop and implement restoration plans for priority areas for conservation or restoration

Identify priorities for improving universal accessibility

Better define and sign the existing loop trail to protect sensitive habitats



Examples of key actions intended after end of public consultation: con't

Work collaboratively with the Tsawout First Nations, District of Central Saanich, and other levels of government on items of mutual interest

Develop an education and communication strategy

Increase opportunities for the public to be involved in park stewardship activities



Examples of key actions intended after end of public consultation: con't

- *Review current operational practices for waste management and consider recycling bins in the day use area*
- *Develop and implement a sign plan for the park*
- *Develop an integrated bylaw compliance strategy with other levels of government*
- *Work cooperatively with the Tsawout First Nation to involve their community in education and interpretive activities*



Examples of key actions intended after end of public consultation: con't

- *The campground will not be enlarged but it may be reconfigured or reduced in size.*
- *Develop a restoration plan for the coastal sand ecosystem: develop a plan to address protection and restoration of the coastal sand ecosystem and associated species.*



Examples of key actions intended after end of public consultation: con't

- *Develop collaborative working relationships with key partners: given the multi-jurisdictional nature of the Island View Beach area, strong collaborative working relationships are needed with many potential partners to move forward on many of the key management actions.*
- *Formalize the relationship with the Tsawout First Nation and develop a collaborative management approach to the stewardship of Island View Beach Regional Park and the larger landscape*



Examples of key actions intended after end of public consultation: con't

- *Work cooperatively with the Tsawout First Nation to provide opportunities for their community to be involved in educational and interpretive activities.*
- *In conjunction with a Coastal Sand Ecosystem restoration plan, redesign and reconfigure the campground, using a phased approach, to reduce the footprint and improve the natural values*



Examples of key actions intended after end of public consultation: con't

- *Work with the senior levels of government, NGO's and other groups, educational institutions and members of the public to increase information sharing, advance understanding about the park's natural environment and recreational best practices and address management challenges within the multi-jurisdictional environment.*

