
Opposition to Draft Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw

From sfilgate [REDACTED]
Date Mon 3/30/2026 3:10 PM
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Cowichan Valley Regional District staff and leadership,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 4373 and the associated zoning and enforcement bylaws.

I appreciate the need for long-term planning and environmental stewardship, however, the current direction represents a significant shift in how many residents are interpreting how they will be able to use and manage their property. Many residents feel blindsided by these changes, which are extensive, unnecessary, and/or may not be within your jurisdiction.

My review of these changes leads me to feel that they have not been well thought out regarding environmental impacts, business impacts and recognizing homelessness, food insecurity and supporting community diversity and tourism.

Financial times are tough for families right now. Many families have purchased their Cowichan Valley property with plans for the future of their children and aging parents. They have embraced the opportunity to provide for themselves and others by using their property through animal husbandry, and small businesses. Unless an area has had a significant number of complaints regarding land use, or lake use, then it should be left alone.

I appreciate the voice of my Area B Director who is questioning these extensive changes and is raising legitimate concerns around jurisdiction and legal authority, but she is only one voice. I am aware that my community members from across the CVRD are also raising similar concerns to their area Directors, and I challenge all to carefully consider, and sincerely listen, to those they represent.

The Cowichan Valley is a beautiful, friendly community that I am proud to be a part of. What it is today should be maintained.

Shauna Smith
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