

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2015



CVRD Petitions BC Supreme Court to Enforce Zoning Bylaw in Relation to Contaminated Soils Facility

Duncan, BC - Following the recent Environmental Appeal Board decision to uphold a permit issued by the Ministry of Environment (MOE) to Cobble Hill Holdings/South Island Aggregates (SIA) for the treatment and landfiling of contaminated soil on their Stebbings Road property near Shawnigan Lake, and SIA's recent announcement that they are "operating and open for business" in accordance with the MOE permit, the Cowichan Valley Regional District will be proceeding with its petition to the BC Supreme Court to enforce CVRD Zoning Bylaw No. 985 in relation to the use of the property.

While the CVRD acknowledges the authorities of the Mines Act and the Environmental Management Act in relation to the SIA quarry operation on Stebbings Road, the CVRD considers that these authorities cannot authorize a contaminated soil treatment and landfill facility which is not a permitted use of the property within the F1 – Forestry zone under the CVRD's Zoning Bylaw.

"Local governments have the legislated authority to regulate land use through official community plans and zoning bylaws which ensures the uses of land are consistent with the desires and interests of the community. A contaminated soil treatment and landfill facility is clearly not the desire or interest of the Shawnigan Lake community and it is important that the authority of the CVRD to enforce our zoning bylaw is upheld" states Electoral Area B – Shawnigan Lake Director Sonia Furstenau.

The CVRD will be proceeding with its petition to the BC Supreme Court to enforce Zoning Bylaw No. 985 and ensure that its jurisdiction and regulations are being respected.

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