

SRD Corporate Office
990 Cedar Street,
Campbell River, BC
V9W 7Z8

Dear SRD Board of Directors and Staff,

Feb 14, 2021

I ask you to read my submission thoroughly and consider the situation I describe from my view, as someone negatively affected by recent decisions made by the SRD Board. These decisions are having a grievous effect on my family in terms of our rights and privileges as residents living in the SRD.

On Jan 25th, the SRD filed a court petition against myself and five land partners, for a bylaw infraction File: 2018-B-024; one that we are actively and agreeably working toward compliance on. The SRD recognized our cooperation in a letter from Jordan Hargrave, SRD bylaw officer; *"It has been noted that the property owners have been cooperative with Regional District staff and they have indicated that they intend to bring the property into compliance,"* see attached letter. In this letter he indicates we will be provided with an 'Order to Comply', *"when a timeline to compliance has been decided on"*. We never received an Order to Comply and were never provided, nor asked for a time frame associated with our subdivision application. We were cooperative and communicative, as can be proven by regular communication, meetings and consistent steps forward. Instead of compassion and tolerance, often seen from various levels of government especially during these Covid times, the SRD has treated us with an iron fist.

We have been working diligently at our subdivision process through a series of complex steps and considerable financial cost, involving mappers, surveyors, septic installers, VIHA, MOH, and SRD. No easy task living on a remote island and during a pandemic!

Could the SRD have supported us rather than criminalize us?

Instead of filing a court petition against us, staff and board time could have been spent:

- Giving clear communication/extra support/understanding during pandemic
- Providing an Order to Comply with timelines rather than law enforcement
- Allowing adequate time to complete a subdivision on a rural island

As a hard-working Cortes family, we are so dismayed that the SRD would take steps against us rather than support us. I could understand said steps if we were snubbing the request for compliance or refusing to take responsibility for our zoning infraction. However, the opposite is true. We have been actively engaged in the process to come into compliance for 1.5 years and have been working as fast and hard as possible given these challenging times.

There are hundreds of people between Cortes and Quadra who are out of zoning compliance, be it 'illegal' cabins that people live in year-round or density issues. Instead of using our case, as an example of 'how to do it right', by applauding our actions of working towards compliance, we are being scolded in the most severe way possible by the SRD, without any warning of said severity and without being given an option of 'speeding up' the frustratingly lengthy subdivision process.

I ask you to re-consider the legal petition against our land group. Can this request be brought to the Board and our case discussed? It is wasteful of taxpayers resources, our personal finances, SRD staff time and SRD Board energy. It is not too late to withdraw this legal petition and rather engage in a conversation with us, with myself as primary contact, and have us lay out the steps and timeline to complete our subdivision. We are so close!

I am certain we will complete the subdivision before our case is seen in Court. What is the purpose of the court date, if not for forcing compliance? We do not require forcing as we have been, and continue to be, actively engaged, and are now in the final third of our endeavour to come into compliance.

With hope,

Lovena Harvey

cc: Director Moglove, Director Unger, Director Abram, Director Baker, Director Colborne, Director Davis