

Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin

#1-4401 William Head Road, RR#1, Victoria, BC, V9C 3Y6

Avtar Sunder, Director of Operations,
Agricultural Land Commission,
Burnaby, BC

March 3, 2020

Dear Sir,

Re: Cosburn Turf Farm, [REDACTED] Sooke Road, Metchosin. ALC file #292-30

The APRM appreciates that ALC staff will be making a field inspection of the above site in March. Given the many years of operation of the site as a commercial fill, the main interest of the APRM is that the site be restored to a condition fit to support agriculture consistent with ALC standards as soon as possible.

Our recommendations are:

- 1) Given that the turf farm proposal permitted by the ALC envisaged the non ALR land on the property being upgraded to agricultural use, we urge that the ALC requirements after the inspection treat this land as part of the ALR, and that the ALC move to include it immediately within the ALR before importation of any more soil, so that jurisdiction on such fill is not split between the ALC and the District of Metchosin as at present.
- 2) After the inspection, the ALC determine whether it would be better to proceed to make the site fit for agricultural use using the material on site, as proposed by Elliott of Madrone, or whether the import of topsoil is required to achieve adequate agricultural capability, as in the conditions of the permit.
- 3) Given the many years of operation of this site as a commercial fill, it is the preference of the APRM that no more fill be imported to the site, subject only to the decision of the ALC as to what soil may have to be imported to achieve land fit for agricultural use.
- 4) Should the ALC decide that more soil of any type needs to be imported, then the Owner's agricultural professional be required to report monthly to the ALC on the type of soil and volumes imported, with copies to the District of Metchosin.
- 5) That the ALC report its findings and recommendations to the District of Metchosin and the APRM as representative of the public interest.
- 6) As the neighbours have endured the fill operation on this property for so many years, we strongly suggest that the ALC staff arrange to meet with them during their visit to Metchosin.

We thank you for the attention being given to this site, if it would be of any assistance to the ALC staff representatives of the APRM would be pleased to meet with them during their site visit. Please call me at 250-478-1197 if you have any queries.

Yours truly,

Ken Farquharson, Vice Chair APRM

cc. District of Metchosin