



Making a difference...together

Salt Spring Island Electoral Area

108 121 McPhillips Ave

Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2T6

T: 250.537.4448

www.crd.ca

September 22, 2026

File: 0220-Correspondence

EcoAction Stream 2 Review Committee

Canada Water Agency

Government of Canada

Via Email: EcoActionStream2-EcoActionVolet2@cwa-aec.gc.ca

Dear Review Committee:

RE: RESTORING INTERMITTENT-FLOW WATERSHEDS: A CLIMATE-CULTURAL, REPLICABLE NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE MODEL FOR FRESHWATER STORAGE, FILTRATION AND RESILIENCE

As the Capital Regional District (CRD) Electoral Area Director for Salt Spring Island, I am writing in support of the application by the Climate Adaptation Research Lab (CARL) Society (to the EcoAction Stream 2 program).

My support for this work goes back to Salt Spring Island's Climate Action Plan 2.0 process for Salt Spring Island, which I initiated, for which Dr. Ruth Waldick led the climate risk assessment. Her work first put water security, drought and the condition of our watersheds on the table in a systematic way for our community, not just as a concern for any one property or watershed. Since that process, Dr. Waldick has continued to lead risk assessment work in our region, including establishment of a long-term study of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's Maxwell Creek Watershed. This project, now in its sixth year, has resulted in collaborations across the region, including with Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, BC Wildlife Service, Islands Trust and the CRD. Using the Maxwell Creek Watershed as a model, CARL has created a wider network of practitioner alliances across the Salish Sea, a track record this application builds on.

In my time on the CRD Board, I've come to appreciate how much of what protects our watersheds depends on individual landowners and small utilities choosing to act, since roughly 80% of the land base in this region is privately owned. The CRD and other agencies will also benefit from the type of local information about risks to rural water supply and infrastructure this project will develop. Reducing risk is particularly important in rural communities, where limited resources can make it more challenging to respond to flooding, water shortages, and other water quality emergencies. The project will also include restoring water catchment areas within the Maxwell Creek Watershed, one of Salt Spring Island's two largest drinking water supply watersheds.

This project offers an example of how local community-based organizations can effectively work across political and jurisdictional boundaries in ways that are not always possible for local governments. It will also help local governments and organizations to identify how funds and resources should best be directed. The CRD would welcome the opportunity to review and help apply the risk assessment tool and restoration strategies once a working prototype is available.

I'm pleased to offer this letter of strong support for the CARL Society's application and urge the Selection Committee to support their funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Holman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being more prominent than the last name "Holman".

Gary Holman
Director, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area

c.c. Dr. Ruth Waldick, Climate Adaptation Research Lab Society
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Stephen Henderson, General Manager, Electoral Area Services, CRD