

From: [Heyman, George ENV:EX](#)
To: [Popham, Lana AGRI:EX](#)
Cc: [Frampton, Caelie ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Fwd: **s.22** letter - re Hullcar and large scale ag water contamination
Date: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:50:06
Attachments: [311299 - s.22](#) - [Hullcar and large scale ag water contamination.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Hi Lana - in my response to the writer I said I would share with you her concerns about the balance of interests between locally based and industrial agricultural operations and discuss these with you in future. Letter attached, George

Sent from my iPhone

August 7, 2017

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Honourable George Heyman

Dear Sir;

With the change of Provincial Government and the impending review of the nearby Hullcar Aquifer contamination, now seems the perfect time to bring to your attention the issues surrounding the Sleepy Hollow Aquifers, which overlap on Pringle Road, and also include both the Canyon and Steele Spring Water Districts.

There is now a large scale cherry farm on Lansdowne / Pringle road in Spallumcheen. Contrary to what the cherry farm owner told concerned neighbours [s.22](#) . sprinkler irrigation was installed, rather than the promised drip irrigation. This is a massive drain on the Sleepy Hollow Aquifers and possibly on the Hullcar Aquifer as spray irrigation is approximately 70% less efficient than drip irrigation, which could be almost 100% efficient. This type of water system results in water loss through evaporation, leaking and watering of unnecessary areas.

Drip irrigation is arguably the most efficient method of providing water to trees, crops, gardens and landscapes. The efficiency of overhead irrigation, such as rotors, and pop-up spray heads is typically 50 percent and rarely exceeds 70 percent. The efficiency of a well-designed drip irrigation system can reach nearly 100 percent. Drip has numerous other benefits as well, but mainly that it can be tailored to deliver the precise amount of water required by individual plants

We understand, from the Mayor of Spallumcheen, Janice Brown, that all of the area aquifers have an imposed limit on the water usage; both residential and agricultural. We are unable to determine the actual limit and how monitoring is managed, if at all. The usage load on the aquifer will increase in the near future, with the neighbourhood addition of both a commercial pigeon barn, and another large scale broiler operation.

This, and all large BC cherry farms, should have a separate land classification of "Industrial Farming" to separate them from actual small scale operation with local benefits. With industrial farming like the cherry farm, there is literally no economic benefit to Spallumcheen; only a drain on their resources and infrastructure. 100% of the cherries are destined for the Chinese market, 100% of the workers for the cherry farm on Lansdowne are bused in from Kelowna (zero local spending) and the owner does not live on the farm. Along with the farm reclassification, could be an export tax that could stay to benefit the community. Huge tracts of farmland are being swallowed up and taken out of our farm system that feeds our province. This cherry farm replaced one of the largest Asparagus farms (also producing strawberries, melons and other produce) in the area. The asparagus was tilled under and continues to be sprayed with herbicides over an aquifer of 0-250 foot depth from the surface. In addition, poultry manure was extensively applied. Sprinkler irrigation ensures that all of the surfaces' contaminants will eventually leach into the aquifer. Cherry farms are already notorious for continuous chemical application and these chemicals could end up in Deep Creek, which goes through the cherry farm. Deep Creek feeds into and joins in aquifers all the way down to Vernon's drinking source.

Something has to change to protect the future of our non-renewable resource: our water, without which we have no farming, no food and no life. Please consider this when you are reviewing the Hullcar water contamination, and address necessary changes to the antiquated Farm Practises Code, with [responsible sustainable water use](#) at the forefront.

Sincerely Yours

[s.22](#)

From: [Heyman, George ENV:EX](#)
To: [Popham, Lana AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: UK will back total ban on bee-harming pesticides, Michael Gove reveals | Environment | The Guardian
Date: Thursday, November 9, 2017 16:37:47

<https://amp.theguardian.com/environment/2017/nov/09/uk-will-back-total-ban-on-bee-harming-pesticides-michael-gove-reveals>

Sent from my iPhone