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November 2, 2018

Via email: [corpsrv@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:corpsrv@rdn.bc.ca)

Board of Directors  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
6300 Hammond Bay Rd.  
Nanaimo, BC V9R 6N2  
Dear Board of Directors:

**Re: Request to broaden the use of the Descanso Bay Wharf, Gabriola Island**

The Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee recently conducted a review of its water taxi zoning regulations. Community consultation in conjunction with this project indicates strong support for increasing opportunities for commercial water taxi use on Gabriola Island, and that Descanso Bay is the preferred location for this type of use.<sup>1</sup>

Based on the input received from community members, the Local Trust Committee requests that the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board consider expanding the use of the Descanso Bay Wharf (established by Descanso Bay Wharf Service Bylaw No. 1357, 2003) to accommodate commercial water taxi operations.

The Local Trust Committee recognizes that the RDN may need to conduct its own feasibility studies, and that a public process (referendum or alternative approval process) or amendment to the RDN's Crown tenure agreement may be required in order to expand the use of the Descanso Bay Wharf. However, it should be noted that there is no regulatory barrier from a land use planning perspective as the Gabriola Island Land Use Bylaw permits the use of the wharf for the *"loading and unloading of people, goods and materials plus the accommodation of vessels"*.

The Local Trust Committee further requests a written reply regarding any actions to be taken by the RDN Board in response to this correspondence, via email to [gabriolaislandlocaltrustcommittee@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:gabriolaislandlocaltrustcommittee@islandstrust.bc.ca).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Busheikin, Chair  
Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee

cc: Melanie Mamoser, Gabriola Local Trustee  
Heather O'Sullivan, Gabriola Local Trustee  
Clare Frater, Director of Trust Area Services

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<sup>1</sup> Results of a community questionnaire, completed by 209 respondents, indicated that 82% of respondents support water taxi use within the Water Commercial 3 – Marine Transportation (WC3) zone, which includes a portion of Descanso Bay. 92% indicated Descanso Bay was the preferred location for water taxi use because there is existing infrastructure and it is accessible for most of the island's population.