



SCHOOL  
DISTRICT  
**43**  
Coquitlam

Learning for a Lifetime

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April 12, 2018

Mr. Daniel Bings  
Environmental Protection Division  
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Ste. 400 – 640 Borland St.  
Williams Lake BC V2G 4T1  
Via email: Dan.Bings@gov.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Bings:

**RE: Pollution Abatement Order 109192 (PE-4606)  
Anmore Green Estates – Septic Effluent Leakage**

On behalf of School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) (SD43), I am writing in response to your correspondence of April 9, 2018 to Anmore Green Estates (AGE), which was in response to the April 5, 2018 Associated Environmental Consultants report prepared on behalf of AGE regarding the ongoing pollution concerns of waste water disposal.

As SD43 has previously articulated, our primary concern is for the health, safety, and protection of students, employees and other individuals who use Eagle Mountain Middle School and Heritage Woods Secondary School which are located on lands own by SD43 and which are negatively impacted by an ongoing lack of action.

As you know, on November 23, 2017 the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy issued a pollution abatement order to AGE in response to septic effluent leakage from the wastewater system appearing on SD43 lands. On that same day SD43 erected fencing to protect our students, employees and the public while it took AGE substantially more time to respond.

SD43 is disappointed that nearly five months after the pollution abatement order was issued, no real progress has been made to develop an action plan comprised of practical measures to identify and mitigate the environmental risk. Nor has there been any action to implement corrective or mitigating practices to reduce or address the issues. This is unacceptable for the health and safety of our community. SD43 is requesting immediate and increased responsiveness from all parties to permanently address the raised concerns, to make the site safe for students and the public and to expedite the return of the property to Eagle Mountain Middle School for student use.

SD43 is not interested in finger-pointing, but clearly our students are the victims in this issue. Despite comments to the contrary, SD43 staff have made ourselves available for discussions, meetings and consultation with all parties. We find it very troubling that AGE has not reached out to us, yet continue to make inaccurate statements about our involvement. We request that the Ministry of the Environment, AGE and other governing authorities more aggressively address a permanent solution.

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In response to the Ministry of Education request and the Provincial government's playground initiative, SD43 has submitted Eagle Mountain Middle School as one of our top priorities for provincially funded playground equipment. The siting of the playground is the area owned by SD43 that has for five months been fenced off from student use as a direct outcome of the Pollution Abatement Order. We have urgency in resolving this matter and finding a permanent solution not only for the safety of our students but also because we do not want to miss out on this funding opportunity.

SD43 staff will continue to make themselves available to meet with any and all parties to find solutions. However as previously stated, we believe that there are far more effective pollution mitigation measures that can be undertaken beyond the current do nothing approach beyond a fence. Even if the final solution is connection to the Metro Vancouver sewer system, based upon our experience this could take up to three years. An immediate plan needs to be developed for the health, safety and learning environment of our students.

I look forward to receiving a response and can be reached at 604-939-9201 or [cnicolls@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:cnicolls@sd43.bc.ca).

Yours truly,

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)**



Chris Nicolls  
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

cc: Patricia Gartland, Superintendent/CEO  
Ivano Cecchini, Executive Director of Facilities & Planning Services  
Ewen Stewart, Anmore Green Estates  
Darren MacMillan, Principal, Eagle Mountain Middle  
Diane MacSporran, PAC Chair, Eagle Mountain Middle  
Todd Clerkson, Principal, Heritage Woods Secondary  
Mitra Samiei, PAC Chair, Heritage Woods Secondary  
Rick Glumac, MLA, Port Moody-Coquitlam  
Tim Savoie, City Manager, City of Port Moody  
Juli Halliwell, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Anmore  
Carol Mason, Chief Administrative Officer, Metro Vancouver