

## **Delta fails community**

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On Monday night, Delta Mayor Lois Jackson and her Council unanimously voted to pass [Bylaws 6827 and 6828](#). This means that three parcels of fragile Burns Bog land designated Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) will now be re-designated Industrial and Heavy Industrial to accommodate the [South Fraser Perimeter Road](#) (SFPR).

The Corporation of Delta publicly state on their website, [“it has become increasingly important to preserve Delta's remaining natural assets. A system of designated Environmentally Sensitive Areas \(ESAs\) can provide assurances that Delta's environmental values are secured in the future.”](#) yet Monday's decision clearly showed otherwise.

A ray of hope shone through as the Mayor recommended to amend the motion in a future meeting for any money coming in from the sale of these lands to be used to purchase bogland to put into the conservation area. Stay informed about upcoming Council Meetings and Public Hearings to ensure Delta comes through with this recommendation. You can access this information by visiting [the Corporation of Delta's website](#).

It is critical that remaining Burns Bog land is not just given a designation that seems to hold very little weight when up against potential financial profit. Development of Burns Bog, among many things, disrupts the ecological integrity of the land, and encroaches even further on the already fragmented wildlife habitat. For example, the endangered Southern Red-Backed Vole, once considered extinct, was recently found in the area. Now that area is open to be paved over and blocked by a freeway.

In the weeks leading up to the meetings and hearing, Burns Bog Conservation Society sent out various updates encouraging public participation against the bylaws. We received almost fifty letters of protest.

Atypical of Delta Public Hearings, on January 26, 2010, many seats were filled with concerned residents voicing their objections to the bylaws, convincing the Delta Mayor and Council they needed more information to be able to make an informed decision. Mayor Lois Jackson said all the questions raised at the hearing had to be answered before Delta Council could make a decision on the bylaws.

At the following Council meeting on February 1, 2010, the fourth and final reading about the rezoning was not yet on the agenda.

While, in the end, the bylaws were passed, you delayed the decision and made sure that it was not taken lightly. You ensured that the Mayor and Council gave due consideration to the many issues that were raised.

We may not have won this battle, but you did make a difference. We can still protect Burns Bog, and stop the needless South Fraser Perimeter Road.

Stay informed, stay involved, and stay positive!