

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 15 2008**

## **Capital Regional District: *Ban LNG Tankers & Emit No Greenhouse Gases***

**Victoria, BC** – The Capital Regional District is unanimous in its call to the federal government to ban liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers in the Strait of Georgia, and to the provincial government “to require zero greenhouse gases emissions (GHGs) from new gas-fired electricity” generation plants.

The CRD will be supporting a similar resolution by the Powell River Regional District at the UBCM convention in Penticton, on September 22-28.

On August 13, the CRD Board received presentations by representatives of the Alliance to Stop LNG and Texada Action Now, and from Colin Palmer, the Chair of the Powell River Regional District. The Board endorsed a resolution brought to it by the CRD Electoral Area directors.

The CRD joins the Islands Trust and the PRRD in calling for a ban on LNG tankers and to allow no GHGs from gas-fired plants.

The CRD resolution is in response to a proposal introduced in 2007 by WestPac LNG to build an LNG import terminal and a 600 or 1200 megawatt gas-fired generation plant on the north end of Texada Island. The terminal would accommodate 36 LNG tanker shipments per year.

The tanker route, through Haro Strait, Boundary Pass, and Georgia Strait to Texada Island, passes by much of the coastline in the CRD, as well as by many CRD communities.

"Haro Strait and Boundary Pass are the most intensely used waterways in the province," says Gary Holman, who represents the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area on the CRD Board. "LNG tankers represent a significant and completely unnecessary increase in environmental and security risk."

"CRD, Islands Trust, Powell River Regional District, and virtually everyone on Texada Island has said they don't want these LNG tankers anywhere near them," says Will Horter, Executive Director of Dogwood Initiative, a member of the Alliance to Stop LNG. "If the project were approved these communities would assume all the risk, while Westpac and American corporate interests would get all the benefits."

"The world faces a climate crisis, and BC's greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced. Our Premier won't allow emissions from coal-fired generation; and he shouldn't allow GHGs from new gas-fired plants," says Chuck Childress, Chair of Texada Action Now. "WestPac proposes to help meet the government's target of self-sufficiency in electricity generation with imported natural gas – that contradiction couldn't be more glaring."

In 2007, fifteen community groups from around the Strait of Georgia joined with Texada Action Now to form the Alliance to Stop LNG. The Alliance includes Georgia Strait Alliance and Dogwood Initiative. The Alliance website is at [www.texadalng.com](http://www.texadalng.com).

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**For more information, please contact these Alliance members:**

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**Enclosure: The Capital Regional District Resolution**