

Ms. Cullen, Honourable Mayor and Council,

I am a long term, full-time resident of Whitegold, and would like to register my continued opposition to the Whitegold "Beautification", services Undergrounding project for the following reasons:

As disclosed during the March 16, 2022 Zoom meeting, the cost projection now far exceeds the maximum petition value. Given current levels of inflation and interest rate increases, this discrepancy can only be expected to increase. Minimally this should prompt a revote, as was promised if the per household rate increased by a penny. In addition, it seems an irresponsible investment of public time and money, by the RMOW, to fund such a plan that is does not benefit the community at large.

Whistler is still experiencing an affordable housing crisis. Most homeowner will pass on their expense increases to the tenant making the affordability issue even worse. Landlords are no longer giving the "cheaper" Summer rate and are now charging as much as \$1400 per month, or more, for a room in a house. Soaring real estate values is only beneficial if one is planning on selling and moving out of town. Regular tax increases, even without this project add-on will be onerous to many, and tax deferral is simply another form of debt. We worked hard to be debt free.

I am confident and hopeful that Council does not buy into the myth that all Whistler residents have endless access to funds. We need to think of our neighbors when making decisions that affect all. Is this precedent setting?

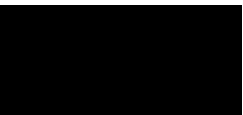
We have yet to see the detailed design that was promised from Nov 2020 to Fall 2021. The March 16th meeting warned of the width of public streets and cited examples of gardens being replaced with transformer boxes and up to 30 trees being removed. One example showed the destruction of an entire small grove of trees in the middle of a driveway. We are at a loss to imagine how this could be considered "beautification" let alone remotely ecological. A detailed design must be in place and presented publicly (in person), with BC Hydro experts present, prior to any re-petition as we trust that specific details and the loss of already shrinking neighborhood greenspace will sway people's decisions.

When this project goes to a re-petition, I would hope that Mayor, Council and staff would not use the 50% threshold for "request for service". This is Not a request for service as Whitegold already has all the necessary services.

I have lived here for almost 30 years fulltime and have worked from home, for UBC IT, for 25 years and cannot recall any outages of services stemming from downed or damaged utility lines in Whitegold. I see no reason for replacing something that is not broken or that is safe and efficient. If Hydro deems the lines to be past their prime, or a safety concern, we assume they will upgrade them at their cost.

We are all so fortunate to live in such a beautiful and amazing place. This subdivision has history, character and no shortage of natural beauty. Rather than supporting a divisive project, I hope the Municipality, Mayor and Council continue to focus on the many ongoing initiatives that provide value for the entire community.

Thank you for your consideration,



Lorraine Vollmer

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