

To Mayor and Council

Oct. 27, 2020

I'm writing this letter as an opponent to the Undergrounding of White Gold Utilities and services.

My parents bought our property in White Gold in the mid-70s, and I've lived on it since Aug. 1987. I've been a Whistler business owner for over 30 years.

Although I am not opposed to change, and modernization. I believe this project is really about the aesthetics in the neighbourhood and less about upgrading our services.

I don't have a Hydro pole in view out my windows or in plain site on the corner of my property but I appreciate that many of my neighbours do which is why the big push from some of our newer home owners to have this project approved.

With so many new builds in our neighbourhood, now dubbed "the Street of Dreams". Our property taxes have about reached our limit. The fact that the cost of this project and financing costs is to be spread over the next 10 or more years, does not negate the cost to each of us.

The proponents of this project are all about the aesthetics and the increased value to our properties. I don't need my property value to go up, unless I'm going to sell. And if I do have to sell, the next owner will still have this bill to pay. I don't see the increased value. If the lines or poles really bother you, pay to have the underground services done yourself as many have done prior to this.

The cost of this project aside, the disruption to our neighbourhood will be ridiculous. We are 3 streets and basically have 1 way in and out. We had the water lines done last year (people were up in arms with the contractors about their gardens and driveways being ripped up) another 2 year+ project will be horrible. There is nowhere to hide from the daily noise, the mess and the increased traffic on our streets.

We are still in a pandemic world with so much uncertainty around the economics of our community this winter and spring. If things don't improve this winter we may be forced to close our restaurant which cuts our income in half.

The cost of the project, even with BC Hydro grants, is enormous to many of us who live and work here full time. We are a 2 income household with grown children, hoping to retire in the next 10-15years. If this project goes through, we will be looking to sell our home to someone who can afford it, and leave Whistler in the next few years.

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