

FANNY BAY GROUNDWATER COLLECTIVE
Submission to May 2026 Edition of Fanny Bay Flyer

It's been approved! In a highly competitive process, our grant application to West Coast Environmental Law (WCEL) for legal funds was successful! Thank you very much to the individuals and organizations that wrote letters of support accompanying our application. The grant money will support legal efforts to protect our groundwater. In the coming weeks, we will meet and speak with WCEL, a lawyer who has agreed to work with us, and K'ómoks First Nations.

In 2016, the province passed the Water Sustainability Act. The Act requires previously unlicensed, commercial water users to be licensed. In the short term, our goal is to pause the province's license application review process for two multinational companies who have applied for groundwater licenses in our area - Natural Glacial Waters and Cermaq. Natural Glacial Waters extracts water for sale to predominantly offshore markets in 500 ml bottles and Mitsubishi-owned Cermaq extracts water to facilitate raising smolts for their open pen fish farms along the coast. Our request is to pause the licensing review process for 3 to 4 years to allow time for our community to explore options under the Act to protect our groundwater resource, to gather and present evidence in support of our concerns via a public hearing process, and to ensure local First Nations are informed of this process and invited to participate.

In addition to licensing requirements, the Act introduced the possibility of community developed Water Sustainability Plans (WSP's). Our ultimate goal is to enable a WSP in our area that would, in accordance with the Act, oversee watershed planning and governance and eco systems protection.

We are at the beginning of a daunting and exciting project. In the weeks and months ahead, you will be receiving updated information about the legal process with the province. You will also be invited to fund raising events and asked for personal donations. Remember, this is a community-led, community-driven effort to protect the community's water!