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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

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Subject: Community gardens on private sites

Hello Mayor and Council,

I am writing to follow up on two specific questions posed by Councillor De Genova during the Council's consideration of the motion titled "*Transparent Process and Taxation for Land Banks Repurposed as Temporary Recreational Properties*" on June 26, 2019.

We can provide the following information in response to Councillor De Genova's inquiries:

1. How many community garden sites are located on contaminated sites?

We presently understand that there are 29 properties that receive tax benefit for hosting community gardens. Of the 29 properties, 15 are identified as contaminated sites by the Provincial site registry.

2. How many sites are required to sit empty as part of a step in soil remediation process?

There are no requirements that necessitate that sites sit empty as part of a step in the remediation process. It is the property owner's decision on what method of remediation to advance. The most common approach is that remediation is achieved via physical removal (often to depths to accommodate underground parking). In some cases, property owners may choose "natural attention". This approach monitors concentrations over time and is much slower than physical removal. In some cases, timescales of decades are needed to reduce the soil and groundwater contaminant concentrations to acceptable levels.

I hope the foregoing information is useful.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.