

South Okanagan Naturalists’ Club

193 Westview Drive

# Penticton, BC V2A 7W1

A registered society

September 21, 2020

RE: Support for Kaleden community initiative to save Sickle Point

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to provide a letter of unqualified support for the Kaleden community’s efforts to return the Sickle Point property to the public domain and preserve its rare and endangered habitats. After a tortuous history of attempts to subdivide this property over the past 15 years it recently become the subject of a court ordered sale.

Since the founding of Kaleden in the early 20th century Sickle Point has been recognized as a habitat jewel. It holds unique biodiversity values as the last example of the water birch/wild rose community on Skaha Lake and one of the few remaining examples in the Okanagan. The Waterbirch/wild rose community is so rare that it is red-listed in BC. The Sickle Point property and the adjoining uplands are critical habitat for a great abundance of wildlife including many endangered species such as Lewis’s woodpecker, Pallid bat, various snake species, etc. More than 100 species of birds have been observed on or about Sickle Point.

Being situated adjacent to the KVR walking/bicycling trail makes the Sickle Point area an obvious candidate for conservation as a nature park, rather than any type of development. Members of our Club frequently use the trail and the vicinity of Sickle Point for our nature and bird watching outings.

The loss of riparian habitats in the Okanagan Valley has been so extensive, it is imperative that the Kaleden community be given assistance in preserving this critical habitat. Our Club has made a financial pledge to this undertaking and we urge all possible support of this important community effort.

Alex Bodden

President