

RECEIVED FEB 12 2010



BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Best Place on Earth

FEB 08 2010

Mr. Peter Monteith  
Chief Administrative Officer  
City of Chilliwack  
8550 Young Road  
Chilliwack, BC V2P 8A4

RECEIVED  
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR  
ACTION TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
(BF \_\_\_\_\_)

Ref: 134508

FEB 12 2010

COPY MAYOR & COUNCIL  
CREATE WORK FILE   
MAIL FILE   
BF TO DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr. Monteith:

Thank you for your letter dated November 25, 2009, regarding the Cultus Lake Governance Study (Study). Ministry of Community and Rural Development (MCD) staff have coordinated a response from several ministries in preparing this reply. I apologize for the delay in responding.

Regarding the issues identified by the City of Chilliwack (City) Council, I provide the following information.

“That upgrades are made to the sewer and water systems to Municipal standards.”

In British Columbia, the standards that must be met by local governments for potable water and sewage treatment are outlined in the *Drinking Water Protection Act*, *Municipal Sewage Regulation*, *Environmental Management Act* and the *Environmental Protection Act*.

MCD staff have confirmed that the water and sewer system in Cultus Lake meets current provincial standards. I recognize that local governments can establish higher standards. However, this is a local government decision in consultation with the residents who will pay for the improvements.

If the Cultus Lake residents were brought into the City, the Letters Patent could create a local area service for the purposes of financing any work that needs to be accomplished to reach the City standards for water and sewer provision.

.../2

“That a landfill closure plan is accepted by the residents of the Lake and a mechanism put in place to fund it.”

On April 24, 2002, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) received a closure (dated April 16, 2002) plan for the former landfill at Cultus Lake. The closure plan was reviewed, but was not approved by MoE. On May 1, 2003, MoE provided a letter to the Cultus Lake Park Board (CLPB), including the recommendation to submit a site profile under part 2 of the Contaminated Sites Regulation.

I am advised that the CLPB would need to submit an updated closure plan to MoE for approval prior to MoE considering the permit cancellation (PR-05984).

Prior to any development occurring on the site, the site will need to be remediated and/or risk managed under the Contaminated Sites Regulation and an appropriate instrument under the regulation will need to be obtained.

If a local government is owner or a responsible party for the site, funding may be available provincially and federally. Further information can be obtained at: [www.brownfieldrenewal.gov.bc.ca/financial.html](http://www.brownfieldrenewal.gov.bc.ca/financial.html), or by contacting the BC Brownfield Renewal enquiry line for info on the next opportunity to apply for provincial funding, by telephone, toll free at: 1 877 787-9730.

“That the Province provide transitional funding for summer policing.”

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has advised that there are no funds or programs that cover additional seasonal policing costs, such as summer policing at Cultus Lake. I am advised that the overall financial impact to the City should the municipality include the Cultus Lake area within its boundaries, would, at a minimum, be the cost of one full time officer estimated at \$137,981.

“That the Province maintain Columbia Valley highway.”

Typically in boundary extensions, the Province of British Columbia does not retain local roads and highways that do not provide access to ports or airports. If roads are transferred to the municipality, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure generally provides five years of transitional funding for the maintenance of the newly included roads. The funding covers only maintenance costs and does not include any non-scheduled capital investments.

Mr. Peter Monteith  
Page 3

“That the Province completes its consultation with Soowahlie First Nation to Soowahlie’s satisfaction.”

On January 14, 2010, the Soowahlie First Nation provided a review of the proposal to include the Cultus Lake Park area within the City’s boundary. The review included a letter from Chief Otis Jasper, indicating that there are outstanding Soowahlie First Nation claims and suggesting that, “For these reasons, we would respectfully submit that your Committee [Cultus Lake Governance Committee] should in the interim maintain the status quo until the outstanding constitutional obligations to the Soowahlie Indian Band have been fulfilled.”

I congratulate the City on participating in a comprehensive study process to review the governance of Cultus Lake Park. Once City Council has reviewed this information and made a decision on how to proceed, please discuss the next steps and provincial funding for public consultation with Ms. Karen Lynch, Senior Planning Analyst, Structure Branch, by telephone at: 250 356-9772, or by email at: [Karen.Lynch@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Karen.Lynch@gov.bc.ca).

Thank you, again, for your letter.

Sincerely,



Dale Wall  
Deputy Minister

pc: Mr. Doug Konkin  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Environment

Mr. David Morhart  
Deputy Solicitor General  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Mr. Peter Milburn  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Ms. Karen Lynch  
Senior Planning Analyst  
Structure Branch  
Ministry of Community and Rural Development