



May 18, 2011

File:

Planning Departments, Local Governments

Dear Sir:

**Re: Riparian Building Setbacks – Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas**

The Minister of Agriculture has adopted the ‘agricultural building setbacks’ as a standard to guide local government bylaw development in farming areas (s.916 Local Government Act). The Ministry’s “Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas” has been updated to include the agricultural building setbacks from watercourses and is posted on the Ministry’s website <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/800Series/840000-1.pdf>. The new information begins on page C-25.

The ‘agricultural building setbacks’ in the Bylaw Guide have the support of the stakeholders involved in this issue. The Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment has provided a forum where Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the BC Ministry of Agriculture and the BC Ministry of Environment, the BC Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, the Union of BC Municipalities and the BC Agriculture Council have discussed the application of the Riparian Areas Regulation to agriculture. These parties have agreed to the agricultural building setbacks outlined in the attached publication “Agricultural Building Setbacks from Watercourses in Farming Areas”. This publication is also posted on our website [http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/800Series/823400-1\\_Agriculture\\_Building\\_Setback\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/800Series/823400-1_Agriculture_Building_Setback_Factsheet.pdf).

The agricultural building setbacks from watercourses are intended to be incorporated into local government bylaws province wide. They apply to agricultural land that is currently growing a crop or fallowed and is therefore considered developed.

Please review your bylaws to determine if they are consistent with the Ministry standards for building setbacks in riparian areas and consider amending the bylaws where appropriate. Ministry regional agrologists (<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/ministry/who.htm>) are available to assist in this matter or you may telephone me (604 556-3109) if you have questions.

Sir  
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Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

*Original signed by*

Bert van Daltsen, PEng.  
Manager, Strengthening Farming Program  
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Attachment

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