



October 23, 2014

File: 280-30
Reference: 209838

Riparian Areas Regulation Representatives
Local Government

Re: Requesting Local Government Riparian Protection Tools

Dear RAR Representative:

This letter is a follow up to the report prepared by the Office of the Ombudsperson, '*Striking a Balance: The Challenges of Using a Professional Reliance Model in Environmental Protection - British Columbia's Riparian Areas Regulation 2014*'. The Provincial Riparian Areas Regulation Committee (hereafter referred to as *the Committee*) of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) is required to evaluate and report out publicly on local government implementation and compliance with the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR). In accordance with the recommendations made, FLNR staff will be working with local governments to verify and ensure compliance with the RAR (see recommendations R1 and R2 in the Ombudsperson report).

At this time, the Committee requests copies of all local government riparian protection tools (including policy and procedures documents guiding riparian protection) to assess the implementation and level of compliance with the RAR. The Committee will also review processes developed and practiced by local governments to ensure the intent of the RAR is being met.

Please submit the following to Heather Pritchard at Heather.Pritchard@gov.bc.ca by **November 15, 2014**:

- Planning policies (e.g., Official Community Plans, development permit areas), regulatory tools (e.g., zoning bylaws), policy and procedure documents for staff evaluating development proposals in riparian areas, and other tools used to implement riparian protection for industrial, commercial and residential development (and their ancillary activities) in riparian areas;
- If not included in riparian protection bylaws, provide specific bylaws addressing soil removal and deposit, tree protection and management, and landscaping, as well as any mitigation tools that might apply to riparian areas;

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- Status of riparian protection tools (i.e., draft or adopted); if draft, provide the expected implementation timeframe; and
- Descriptions of riparian area policies and procedures to:
 - i. evaluate development proposals once notification of an assessment report has been received;
 - ii. incorporate recommendations and measures provided by qualified environmental professionals into development permits;
 - iii. ensure submission of a post-development report; and
 - iv. follow up on non-compliance issues identified in post-development reports.

We look forward to collaborating with local government staff to implement the changes to the RAR as recommended by the Ombudsperson. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Heather Pritchard at Heather.Pritchard@gov.bc.ca or 250-387-8459.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "HPritchard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Pritchard, FLNR, Victoria
On behalf of the Provincial Riparian Area Regulation Committee