



November 14, 2011

File:

Planning Departments of Local Governments

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Re: Residential Uses in the ALR – Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas**

The Minister of Agriculture has adopted 'Regulating the Siting and Size of Residential Uses in the ALR' as a standard to guide local government bylaw development in farming areas (s.916 *Local Government Act*). The Minister's Bylaw Standard has been established by the Minister after consultation with the agricultural industry, local governments, real estate industry and the public. The feedback from these stakeholders, and a public online survey, together with further analysis with Ministry and ALC staff is summarized in the September 2011 Discussion Paper posted on the Ministry's webpage at:

[http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/sf/residential\\_uses\\_in\\_ALR\\_consultation/residential\\_uses\\_in\\_dex.htm](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/sf/residential_uses_in_ALR_consultation/residential_uses_in_dex.htm) . A separate report on the online survey is also posted along with a copy of this letter and common questions and answers on the topic.

The Minister's Bylaw Standard is described in Part 4 of the September 2011 Discussion Paper with the definitions and criteria for bylaw development outlined in Sections 12 and 13 respectively. The Ministry's "Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas" will be updated to include the standard in due course at:

<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/800Series/840000-1.pdf>.

Please review your bylaws to determine if they address the siting and size of residential uses in the ALR and consider the new Ministry standard. 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.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

*Original signed by*

Bert van Daltsen, PEng.  
Manager, Strengthening Farming Program  
Sustainable Agriculture Management Branch