IMMINENT FLOOD THREAT WORKS
THE CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY BERMS AND DIKES

5.12.1 GENERAL

This policy addresses the provincially funded construction of temporary berms and dikes to protect eligible infrastructure under imminent threat of flooding.

Temporary berms and dikes are considered an emergency response measure of last resort and should only be considered when other measures such as the construction of temporary works using sandbags and gabion baskets are not appropriate or viable.

Temporary berms shall not be placed on existing dikes. The raising of an existing dike requires application under the Dike Maintenance Act, and as such is not covered under this policy. Raising an existing orphan dike will require a local government to become the diking authority per the Diking Authorities for New Dikes policy (Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resources).

5.12.2 POLICY STATEMENT(S)

1. The use of temporary berms and dikes may be considered by the Province as an appropriate emergency response activity when required to protect eligible infrastructure. All temporary berms and dikes built under this policy must be deconstructed once the threat has passed.

2. Where the use of a temporary berm or dike is considered appropriate by the Province, the Province will reimburse the local government for the cost of materials, rental equipment, engineering services, and labour hired specifically for this purpose according to the Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery; A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations. This includes the construction and removal of the temporary berm or dike.

5.12.3 CONDITIONS

Eligible infrastructure is discussed in the Imminent Flood Threat Mitigation Works Policy Category. In addition to the common conditions stipulated in the Imminent Flood Threat Works Policy Category, the following specific conditions must be met:

- Temporary berm and dike construction will not be supported in situations where:
  - Sandbags or gabion baskets are a viable mitigation option.
  - Time permits the removing or relocating of the infrastructure at risk, and the cost of removing or relocating the infrastructure at risk is less than the cost of constructing and deconstructing the berm or dike.
5.12 Construction of Temporary Berms and Dikes

- The cost to replace or purchase the infrastructure at risk, including cultural value is less than the cost of constructing and deconstructing the berm or dike.
- The infrastructure is neither critical to the community nor the primary residence of the owner.
- The presence of a temporary berm or dike will cause the flood threat to increase in other areas with high value infrastructure.

- The estimate of values other than eligible infrastructure to be protected by a temporary berm or dike must be greater than the cost of building and removing the emergency work.


- The local government has secured permission to access private property for construction and deconstruction of the temporary berm or dike.

- The work shall be carried out under the direct supervision of an appropriately qualified Professional Engineer. Immediately following construction, the Engineer shall prepare a design and construction report, including a location plan, a sketch plan and typical section(s), description of design, construction methods, materials, safety issues, and monitoring requirements.

- While in place, the local government must ensure that the berm or dike is appropriately monitored as determined by the Professional Engineer.

- A deconstruction plan must be filed as soon as possible after construction of a temporary berm or dike is complete.

- A temporary berm or dike must be removed by the local government before a reimbursement claim for construction and deconstruction can be processed.

5.12.4 AUTHORITIES

- Emergency Program Act
- Water Sustainability Act
- Water Sustainability Regulation
- Dike Maintenance Act

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Robert Turner
Assistant Deputy Minister
Emergency Management BC

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