



Reference: 244672

December 21, 2018

VIA EMAIL: jsham@csrd.bc.ca

Chair Rhona Martin
Columbia-Shuswap Regional District

Dear Chair Martin:

Thank you for your letter of November 29, 2018, to Minister Doug Donaldson, concerning Newsome Creek erosion at Caen Road in Sorrento within Electoral Area C of the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District (CSRD). I have been asked to respond and apologize for the delay.

I appreciate the CSRD Board's resolution of November 15, 2018, and the actions taken by the CSRD to date to pursue geotechnical assessment to gain further clarity on the erosion risks and next steps regarding Newsome Creek.

As you mention, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) funded one geotechnical assessment in 2017 and two additional geotechnical assessments as well as a danger tree assessment in 2018. The authors of the three geotechnical memos as well as Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) staff concluded that Newsome Creek and the ravine in which it flows will continue to be unstable until geomorphological processes bring the creek into equilibrium with its surroundings. The geotechnical memo of October 6, 2018, recommended the following actions: owners of the four properties with permanent structures at risk consider moving them; the creek channel above the TCH be studied to assess its stability; a feasibility study on how the ravine can be stabilized be undertaken; and the TCH culvert be assessed and/or stabilized.

With respect to Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) actions, I understand that interim repairs to the affected roads and damaged culverts have been completed. A hydrologic assessment was completed for the creek to determine the appropriate culvert sizes for the side road crossings and the crossing at the TCH. As part of this work, culverts along the stream are being considered for upsizing in 2019. Additional engineering is required to confirm what is required for the culvert crossing at the TCH. No timeframe for this repair has been confirmed. MOTI's mandate is limited to the protection of the crossings. Proactive work to protect homes is the responsibility of the CSRD as the local government. MOTI's focus will be to ensure that the natural drainage in Newsome Creek flows in a manner unimpeded by its culverts. I also understand that EMBC approved funding for removal of the identified danger trees referenced in your letter, and that the Sorrento Centre has applied for a Section 11 permit under the *Water Sustainability Act*.

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For information

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The Water Sustainability Regulation of the *Water Sustainability Act* allows local governments to undertake restoration of a stream channel. As a permitting body overseeing works in and about streams in British Columbia, FLNRORD has provided approvals to several municipalities and regional districts in 2017 and 2018 for stream restoration projects such as vegetation and debris removal, dredging, and stream bank armoring. This situation is no different. This ministry strongly encourages the CSRD to apply for such works on behalf of its residents, supported by sound engineering principles and a robust environmental management plan.

To assist in this endeavour, my colleagues in EMBC have indicated that there are several applicable funding programs available if the financial resources within a local government are limited. These sources are described below:

- The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies and is administered through the Union of BC Municipalities. For more information on future funding intakes, please visit the website: www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/community-emergency-preparedness-fund.html
- The Federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund is a 10-year, \$2-billion national program designed to help communities better withstand current and future risks of natural hazards. The fund will support large-scale infrastructure projects with a minimum cost of \$20 million. For more information, please visit: <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/dmaf-faac/index-eng.html>
- The Rural and Northern Communities Program is a component of the wider Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, which supports infrastructure projects in communities across the province that have populations 25,000 or less. For more information, please visit the website: www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/funding-engagement-permits/grants-funding/investing-in-canada/rnc-program-guide.pdf

Again, thank you for taking the time to write and share CSRD and residents' concerns. I encourage the CSRD to: investigate the provincial and federal funding sources outlined above; undertake the hydrologic assessment and ravine stabilization assessment studies recommended by the EMBC-funded geotechnical memo of October 6, 2018 and; apply to the province for authorisation to undertake any works recommended in the feasibility study to protect its citizens, including vegetation removal and/or stream bank protection.

Sincerely,



Paul Rasmussen
Assistant Deputy Minister
South Area

pc: Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development