

From: "PSSG WEBFEEDBACK PSSG:EX" <PSSGWebFeedback@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 2, 2020 at 15:32:30 PDT
To: Director Salmon Arm 1 <KFlynn@csrd.bc.ca>
Cc: "Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX" <Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca>, "Kyllo.MLA, Greg LASS:EX" <Greg.Kyllo.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, Jennifer Sham <jsham@csrd.bc.ca>
Subject: **SG File No. 564950**

Kevin Flynn
Chair, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD)
Email: kflynn@csrd.bc.ca

Dear Kevin Flynn:

Thank you for your two emails of March 24, 2020, concerning Newsome Creek erosion and a request for a mitigation project.

I acknowledge the interest in this issue as demonstrated by the local support for the petition coordinated by the Newsome Creek Watershed Advisory Committee (NCWAG). I also appreciate the NCWAG letter dated March 10, 2020, sharing the perspective of residents and businesses in the area.

It should be noted that contrary to the subject of the petition, flood hazard management including bank protection is a responsibility of local authorities to protect its citizens from flooding. There is also a responsibility of individual landowners to take measures to protect their properties from hazards. The Province supports mitigation work led by local authorities, but is not responsible for the lead in this issue.

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) has provided funding toward the geotechnical assessment and development of mitigation options. Other support to plan and implement mitigation projects is provided by the Province through merit-based funding programs, such as the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) and Rural and Northern Communities program. Projects with strong technical information and cost-benefit ratio receive higher priority.

EMBC staff consulted further with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) regarding the suggestion to extend rip rap armouring for the full reach between Highway 1 and Dieppe Road in conjunction with planned MoTI culvert replacement work. At this point, MoTI anticipates installing permanent culverts at Taylor Road, London Lane and Dieppe Road this fall. Feasibility and funding availability for works on the Trans-Canada Highway are still being determined, and MoTI does not anticipate that work taking place in this construction season.

The suggestion to extend adjacent MoTI rip rap work along the full reach from Dieppe Road to Highway 1 would reduce some costs, but still requires funding to be secured by the local authority. EMBC has reviewed this suggestion with MoTI, but the scope of MoTI's armouring around culvert crossings is to protect MoTI infrastructure, not for downstream impacts caused by the natural watercourse.

EMBC recommends that the CSRD submit applications to provincial and federal funding sources and apply to the Province for authorization to undertake works recommended in the feasibility study to protect its citizens, including vegetation removal and/or stream bank protection. EMBC is pleased to continue discussions with MoTI and CSRD on coordinating funding applications (such as the Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund) and scheduling work to accomplish shared erosion protection interests. EMBC will also continue to work with the CSRD to monitor the hazard as conditions require. In the meantime, owners of affected properties with permanent structures at risk are recommended to evaluate their options and consider moving the structures.

MoTI will continue to inspect and clear culverts as required, with frequency and response time linked to the road classification. In response to some of the other issues raised in the NCWAG letter, MoTI has also offered to have traffic safety engineers look into whether a barrier between the Highway 1 shoulder and the creek is warranted. MoTI was also not aware of any information regarding material being hauled and reintroduced to the channel during previous events at this location.

MoTI has also agreed to share finalized studies regarding hydraulic capacity and risk assessments to MoTI infrastructure in the Newsome Creek Watershed with the CSRD to improve understanding of the situation and inform future mitigative efforts. Although some studies may still be in draft form, please have a CSRD representative contact Gayle Keefe, DFAA Program Manager, Okanagan Shuswap District, to coordinate the sharing of these studies where possible. Gayle Keefe can be reached at: Gayle.Keefe@gov.bc.ca or: 250-712-3648.

For further information on mitigation funding programs, please feel free to contact Andrew Giles, Director, Disaster Mitigation, at: andrew.giles@gov.bc.ca or: 778-974-4535.

I appreciate being made aware of your concerns.

Sincerely,

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

pc: The Honourable Claire Trevena
Greg Kylo, MLA
Jennifer Sham