



File: 39000-01/LOS

September 2, 2022

VIA EMAIL: treid@naturetrust.ca

West Coast Conservation Lands Management Program - Nature Trust of BC
2080A Labieux Road
Nanaimo, BC
V9T 6J9

Re: Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Committee Letter of Support for Major Restoration Works in Koksilah/Cowichan Estuary

Dear Thomas Reid,

I am writing to confirm the support of the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Committee (the Committee) for the proposed Major Restoration Works in Koksilah/Cowichan Estuary (the Project).

The Committee met on August 23, 2022 and discussed the proposal after reviewing relevant materials and a presentation provided by the Proponent. The relevant materials included a letter to the Committee summarizing key background information and key findings from a qualified professional. The professional report documented the existing condition of various diking in the estuary and expected impacts of sea level rise and future storm events. The existing dike structures do not meet Provincial Standards for flood protection and require significant upgrades. Furthermore, the existing dike structures do not provide flood protection during modelled 10-year or 200-year flood events. The Project proposes to remove approximately 1,700 lineal meters (m) of existing diking, thereby leading to the naturalization of approximately 49 hectares (ha) of estuary habitat.

The Committee recognizes that loss and degradation of saltmarsh habitat has resulted from extensive diking for agriculture and other uses. A primary objective of the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Plan is to “support rehabilitation of presently degraded habitat in the estuary.” The Project as proposed will make great strides in achieving this objective, and the Project is deemed to be consistent with the objectives of the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Plan.

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The Committee wishes you the best of success with this Project and looks forward to seeing it completed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jesse Patterson, RPBio, PhD

Chair, Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Committee

Section Head, Ecosystems, West Coast Region
Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship

cc:

Tracy Fleming, Cowichan Tribes

Eamon Gaunt, Cowichan Tribes

Kate Miller, Cowichan Valley Regional District

Mike Tippett, Cowichan Valley Regional District

Anne Kjerulf, Cowichan Valley Regional District

Vince Harper, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Dave Preikshot, Municipality of North Cowichan