

January 6, 2021

CVRD Board of Directors

Re: Chemainus River Flood Plain Mapping

I am writing this letter to encourage the CVRD board to fund a flood plain mapping study of the Chemainus River, including Bonsall Creek and Whitehouse Creeks, in 2021. The flood in the area on January 31, 2020, is only one example of the need by all levels of government to manage the flows related to this watershed. Our staff, CVRD staff, Halalt and other senior staff from the province have been in ongoing discussions regarding this matter since the summer, and the creation of a long-term flood management plan was an outcome of those discussions. Our staff have been collaborating with CVRD environmental services thus far to move the project along, led by the CVRD Environmental Services.

Further, the Municipality has a Bonsall Creek Watershed Plan in which an early priority has been modelling of the watershed. The river and creek affect one another at high flood stage as evidenced in January 2020, warranting a combined study.

At its December 16 meeting, our Council approved a motion to budget \$50,000 towards this mapping study. Adding the \$50,000 budget to the Bonsall Creek Watershed Plan Implementation function will commit \$100,000 to the project. We understand that CVRD staff intend to bring a recommendation to the Board to allocate \$100,000 carried forward from the Environmental Services budget in January 2021. I urge you to approve that budget item.

In the meantime, we also understand that your staff are working on a disaster mitigation fund application for the same project. The Municipality fully supports that option, although we feel the work should not be contingent only upon receiving that funding.

Sincerely



Al Siebring
Mayor

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Enclosure: Response letter from Deputy Minister Tara Richards, Emergency Management BC

cc: North Cowichan Council
Hamid Hatami, General Manager, Engineering Services CVRD
Kate Miller, Manager, Environmental Services CVRD
David Conway, Director, Engineering MNC