



Office of the Chair
1450 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3Z4

Telephone: (250) 469-6224
Fax: (250) 763-0606
rhobson@cord.bc.ca
www.regionaldistrict.com

June 17, 2009
Our File: 0530-02/0410-20/3050-01

The Honourable Blair Lekstrom
Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
PO Box 9060 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC
V8W 9E2

Via Fax: 250 356-2965

Dear Minister Lekstrom:

Re: Aggregate Extraction in the Regional District of Central Okanagan

On behalf of the Regional Board, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. The Regional District looks forward to working with you and your staff on various issues of importance to the residents of the Central Okanagan.

The Regional District of Central Okanagan wishes to bring to your attention on-going issues and concerns related to aggregate extraction in our region. While we recognize the importance of this non-renewable resource for existing and future development, there are on-going pressures on locating supplies of the resource, compounded by the reduction of reserves through urbanization, legislative requirements, environmental protection measures, and neighbourhood concerns of dust, noise, safety and landscape aesthetics. These factors indicate the need for a long term strategic plan for aggregate extraction in the Central Okanagan.

On April 9, 2009, the *Okanagan Residential Communities Against the Proliferation of Urban Mining Practices* made a presentation to the Regional District Governance and Services Committee (a committee of the Regional Board). At the April 9th meeting, it was noted that local communities remain uninformed regarding future plans of the Province with respect to aggregate mining, and they question whether a pilot project (similar to the one in the Fraser Valley) will be initiated in the Central Okanagan. While the Committee recognizes that the Fraser Valley Pilot Study has not yet been completed, they note that the Central Okanagan is a completely different region with different issues and a study for this region should be completed at the earliest opportunity.

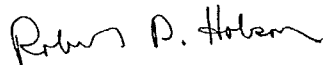
To this end, a resolution was adopted requesting that the Province be requested to immediately initiate an aggregate three-zone pilot project in the Central Okanagan. It was also recommended that the Province redraft governing approvals for gravel extraction to incorporate issues such as health and environmental concerns, the referral process and the social impact to residents. Further, it was recommended that all new applications for aggregate extraction be put on hold until a pilot study is initiated in the Central Okanagan. An excerpt from the April 9, 2009 minutes of the Governance and Services Committee meeting is attached for your information.

The Regional District wishes to continue to work collaboratively with your Ministry in an effort to establish a well defined aggregate extraction process that recognizes the needs and concerns of all individuals that may be impacted.

We would appreciate your timely review and response to the above noted recommendations of the Governance and Services Committee.

If you have any questions or wish to meet to further discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (250) 469-6224.

Sincerely,



Robert Hobson
Chair

Attachment

cc: Ben Stewart, Westside-Kelowna MLA
Steve Thomson, Kelowna-Mission MLA
Norm Letnick, Kelowna-Lake Country MLA
Regional Directors
Butch Morningstar, Executive Regional Director, Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources
Joe Seguin, Regional Manager, Exploration & Mining
ORCAP - Okanagan Residential Communities Against the Proliferation of Urban Mining Practices
Peter Lishman, Service Centre Manager, FrontCounter BC
Dan Plamondon, RDCO Manager Development & Environmental Services
Ron Fralick, RDCO Planner I

Regional District of Central Okanagan – Excerpt of the April 9, 2009 Governance and Services Committee minutes

3. Delegation

3.1 Grant Lawrence, Okanagan Residential Communities Against the Proliferation of Urban Mining Practices

Grant Lawrence and Heather Larratt addressed the committee. The organization had previously addressed the Board last February and wished to update the committee on progress since that time.

- What's new since February 2008: lower demand in aggregate with slow down in the economy, Fraser Valley Pilot Project not yet complete.
- Community remains in the dark regarding what the Province's plan is for the future of aggregate mining including whether a pilot project will be done in the Central Okanagan.
- Provided update on what aggregate mining is being done in the valley including areas in Peachland, Joe Rich, Lake Country.
- Highlighted impacts of dust on health and groundwater. Suggested monitoring of dust in areas where aggregate mining occurs.
- A mine plan should be "flexible, technically competent business smart and respectful of the community and the environment" out of the mining's guide best practices.
- Three zone model for the Central Okanagan reviewed.

It was noted the aggregate study previously completed by the Regional District was to be updated as part of the Regional Growth Strategy update.

Discussion:

- UBC-O might be interested in being involved in air quality monitoring. Director Shepherd will follow up with UBC-O and the Okanagan Airshed Coalition.
- Nothing will happen until the provincial election is completed and a minister is named.
- Believe the Province does not need to wait until the Fraser Valley pilot study is completed before beginning a study in the Central Okanagan. This is a different area worthy of a study.
- Soil removal bylaw has been on hold as Ministry staff felt it should wait until the Fraser Valley report is completed. Provincial staff have said they will come back to the Board once the pilot study is completed.
- Legislation is outdated. Municipalities/regional districts are not part of the decision making process.
- Some gravel pit operations do operate effectively including dust control and noise, etc. It is up to the pit operator to continually monitor these issues.
- The Regional District could strike a committee to design a three-zone study at the same time as reviewing what options are available to local governments to limit the issues around aggregate mining.

#GS26/09 HAYES/BAKER

THAT the Governance and Services Committee recommends that the Regional Board directs a letter be sent to the Province stating that although the Fraser Valley Pilot Study on aggregate

has not yet been completed, and that as Central Okanagan is a completely different region with different issues, the Regional Board requests the Province immediately initiate an aggregate three-zone pilot project in the Central Okanagan;

AND THAT any new aggregate applications be put on hold until a pilot study is initiated in the Central Okanagan;

Amendment to the main motion
FIELDING/SHEPHERD

AND FURTHER THAT the Province consider redrafting legislation governing approvals for gravel extraction to incorporate issues such as health and environmental concerns, the referral process and the social impact to residents.

Amendment CARRIED

Main motion CARRIED

Further discussion ensued regarding the need to update the Central Okanagan Growth Management Strategy – Aggregate Supply and Demand Study (June 2000). Next steps: direct staff to report on how to proceed including what issues could be done immediately, committee process, committee membership including why individuals are being recommended, stakeholder involvement, timing, costs and staff allocation required.

#GS27/09 SHEPHERD/EDGSON

THAT the Governance and Services Committee recommends that the Regional Board consider forming a committee to review updating the *Central Okanagan Growth Management Strategy – Aggregate Supply and Demand Study*;

AND FURTHER that staff be directed to review the previous process (2000) and report back to the Governance and Services Committee on next steps including: identifying costs, membership of the committee, and stakeholder involvement.

CARRIED