

January 20, 2022

File: 0450-20 (Regional Planning)

Dear MVRD Board of Directors:

**Re: City of Surrey - South Campbell Heights RGS Amendment
First Nations and Community Stakeholder Consultation Update**

This letter provides information on the City of Surrey's (the "City") consultation efforts on South Campbell Heights since the closing of the Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy ("RGS") amendment application formal comment period. Specifically, this letter outlines the meetings that have taken place with representatives from Semiahmoo First Nation ("SFN"), as well as a summary of a recent Community Stakeholder Information Meeting.

Meetings with Semiahmoo First Nation Representatives

SFN representatives indicated to City staff that they hope to be involved in a meaningful way in the plan process. Six (typically weekly) meetings between the City and SFN and their representatives have taken place since December 1, 2021. The intent of the meetings has been to seek feedback on environmental and aquifer protection approaches, as well as the development of a Terms of Reference ("TOR") for a Cumulative Effects Assessment Study ("CEA") on SFN traditional practices, which would be undertaken during the future Stage 2 Land Use Planning work.

A summary of the one-on-one meetings since the beginning in December 2021 between City staff and SFN representatives is provided below:

- December 1, 2021: Overview of the Plan process presentation, acknowledgement on directions for SFN engagement approaches, future background study updates, and feedback on the development of a potential Traditional Use Study
- December 15, 2021: Comments on the Madrone Environmental Report findings, and discussion on potential expansion on scope of work for the Traditional Use Study to include a CEA.
- December 22, 2021: SFN provided the City written correspondence that included a proposed scope of work for the CEA.
- January 5, 2022: Initial comment and discussion regarding the CEA and a request from SFN to document questions and comments arising from meeting.
- January 12, 2022: Discuss and clarify questions and comments related to the draft proposal for the CEA, including study area, objectives, scope of work, deliverables, budget, etc.
- January 19, 2022: Further discussion and clarification on the CEA proposal.

Staff are currently working with SFN to review the Request for Proposals to update the existing Madrone Environmental Report for South Campbell Heights. The Environmental Study update will focus on changes in Provincial and Federal Environmental Legislation put in place since 2015, including the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation, Water Sustainability Act, and the Federal Fisheries Act, and will also include:

- A Watercourse Assessment Review;
- Wetlands Inventory; and
- Species at Risk development application process guide.

The existing Madrone Environmental Report and the planned update will provide a basis for SFN to conduct a CEA on SFN traditional practices in South Campbell Heights. SFN has provided the City with a draft TOR to complete a CEA. The objective of the study is to examine impacts to various SFN valued traditional practices, such as:

- Fishing (both habitats and food sources);
- Clam harvesting (downstream impacts);
- Plant gathering (both edible and medicinal);
- Water quality;
- Community well being/health; and
- Restricted access to resources.

SFN will lead and undertake the CEA, and the City will provide capacity funding for this work. Timelines for this work are currently being discussed, but early discussion indicates that the work would be conducted in two phases, with the first phase examining historic SFN traditional uses in the Plan area and beyond. The second phase would address cumulative effects and recommendations, and/or implementation measures related to South Campbell Heights.

Should the MVRD Board approve the RGS amendment, an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (“ISMP”) will also be undertaken as part of the Stage 2 South Campbell Heights plan process. Along with considering and incorporating the findings of the Environmental Study noted above, the ISMP will also include a hydrogeological assessment that builds on past studies and available field data. The ISMP will outline a sustainable drainage servicing strategy (with associated performance targets) with the goal of respecting and maintaining the overall health of the Brookwood aquifer and the Little Campbell River as development proceeds in the South Campbell Heights plan area.

City staff are currently preparing a draft of the ISMP TOR for SFN’s review and feedback and anticipate continued engagement with SFN throughout the ISMP process.

Additional weekly and/or biweekly meetings between City and SFN representatives are scheduled take place through 2022.

Community Stakeholder Information Meeting

On January 13, 2022, City staff hosted a virtual stakeholder information meeting about the South Campbell Heights project and received community feedback regarding the plan process. Stakeholders included environmental groups, community association representatives, SFN representatives, Kwantlen First Nation representatives, local and Provincial government representatives, Surrey Board of Trade, and industrial/development groups.

In total, 23 stakeholders, including five First Nation representatives (three from SFN and two from Kwantlen First Nation), attended the meeting along with six City staff. City staff provided a general overview of the City's approach moving forward with the Stage 2 South Campbell Heights Plan, should the MVRD Board approve the RGS Amendment, as well as a general update on expected and pending background studies, such as:

- Environmental Study Update;
- CEA;
- Archaeological Study Update; and
- ISMP.

Key themes arising from the consultation included:

- A request for future opportunities to provide feedback on the Environmental Study update and ISMP; and
- A request for more frequent and regular future virtual meetings and information sharing with community stakeholder groups and representatives in 2022.

The information gathered at the stakeholder information meeting will guide future consultation efforts, including completion of additional background studies as part of the Stage 2 plan process. Additional and continued engagement with First Nations, community stakeholders and the broader community is anticipated as part of the Stage 2 South Campbell Heights planning process to engage and gather additional public input.

We trust that this letter provides further context on the City's consultation efforts with SFN and key community stakeholders, along with our commitment to continued engagement during the Stage 2 planning process for South Campbell Heights, should the MVRD Board approve the RGS amendment.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.



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c.c. - Councillor Joanne Charles, Semiahmoo First Nation