



Fisheries  
and Oceans

Pêches  
et Océans

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**JUL 30 2002**

Mr. Chris Badger  
Vice President, Operations  
Vancouver Port Authority  
1900 Granville Square  
200 Granville Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V6C 2P9

Dear Mr. Badger:

**SUBJECT: GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT (GVRD)**  
**LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (LWMP)**

Thank you for your letter of June 25, 2002 requesting clarification on our position with respect to the Greater Vancouver Regional District's (GVRD) Liquid Waste Management Plant (LWMP). As you may know, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has been working closely with Environment Canada (EC) on GVRD's municipal wastewater discharges, as EC has lead administrative authority for the pollution prevention provisions of the *Fisheries Act*, while DFO's Minister is accountable to Parliament for the *Fisheries Act* in its entirety.

The GVRD LWMP was developed under a provincial planning process, and both DFO and EC participated in this process. Our Departments have not formally endorsed or approved the GVRD LWMP, and there is no requirement for federal agencies to approve a provincial plan. For clarification, meaningful consultations occurred between the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (WLAP), DFO, and EC prior to provincial approval of the LWMP.

In the past three years, DFO and EC Pacific Region have sent more than five letters to the GVRD, and have met with them to request firm and reasonably short schedules for compliance with the *Fisheries Act* at Iona and Lion's Gate, and the

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timely elimination of combined sewer overflows (CSOs), such as the largest one at the foot of Clark Drive in Burrard Inlet. In March 2001, EC issued Warning Letters to GVRD because of deleterious deposits from the Iona and Lion's Gate primary treatment plants, the effluents of which were found to be acutely lethal to fish. The build up of sewage materials on the seabed from the raw sewage overflows at Clark Drive also appear to be causing a harmful alteration of fish habitat, in violation of section 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*. DFO has repeatedly stated on public record that a firm and reasonable commitment for *Fisheries Act* compliance is required for key GVRD discharges.

It is our view that the approved LWMP does not fully address federal concerns pursuant to our mandate under the *Fisheries Act*. In approving the GVRD LWMP, Minister Murray noted that additional effort is still required to satisfy the federal agencies. We will continue to work with EC and other agencies to address and resolve our federal concerns with respect to GVRD's municipal wastewater discharges.

Yours sincerely,



Susan Farlinger  
A\Regional Director  
Habitat and Enhancement Branch

cc: J. C. Davis  
C. Masson  
B. Antcliffe