



February 16, 2009

Partners

Letter of Agreement: Lower Fraser River Gravel Removal Plan

Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Province of British Columbia are committed to working together to reduce the risk of flood threat to the citizens of British Columbia in the Lower Fraser Valley, Mission to Hope, while ensuring fish and fish habitat values are protected.

The Fraser River Gravel Removal Program is one component of an integrated approach to flood hazard management that includes a strong diking system, zoning and land use development controls, sediment and gravel removal, and emergency preparedness response and recovery.

The current Letter of Agreement (LOA), which governs sediment and gravel removal for flood protection purposes on the Lower Fraser River, Mission to Hope, expires on March 31, 2009. It is agreed that a new LOA has a target date for completion of September 30, 2009.

This letter extends the current LOA until March 31, 2010, however if the new LOA is completed and signed before this date, that will cause the extension of the current LOA to lapse. This extension is necessary to provide time to gather the best available knowledge and science upon which to base the new LOA and allow the continuing removal of sediment and gravel.

The extension of the current LOA signifies a spirit of cooperation between the Province of British Columbia and Fisheries and Oceans Canada in taking steps towards the development of a new LOA within the context of an overall flood protection strategy for the Province of British Columbia.

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