

**TO: Administrator
Director of Planning/Engineering**

FROM: UBCM Staff

DATE: June 14, 2006

RE: UPDATE: RIPARIAN AREA REGULATION

Two new letters have been posted to the UBCM website civicnet.bc.ca under Featured Policy Topics/Riparian Area Regulation. One is a letter of joint support for the Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the provincial Ministry of Environment (MOE). The second is a joint letter from DFO and MOE clarifying the role of Environmental Review Committees (ERC) for those local governments using the SPR and ERC as a variance mechanism.

On May 19, 2006 the provincial cabinet approved the revised assessment methods and a series of regulatory amendments designed to clarify the scope and application of the Riparian Area Regulation.

The amended regulation removes the requirement of local governments to review the assessment report, verify the credentials of qualified environment professionals (QEPs), and enforce the recommendations contained in an assessment report. This amendment significantly reduces local government liability exposure.

All of the major implementation tools required by local governments to effectively implement the regulation have been completed and have been made available to communities. The science paper which provides the scientific rationale for the RAR, has not been signed off by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans at this time. There are ongoing discussions between the Ministry of Environment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to finalize this document.

The revised regulation and assessment methods are now available on the Ministry of Environment's (MOE) website at:
www.env.gov.bc.ca/habitat/fish protection act/riparian/riparian areas.html

In addition, please note that in order to access the RAR notification system, local governments must send UBCM one central email address that will be used for notification emails. Local governments will need to be linked to the RAR notification system to meet provincial regulatory requirements for development near watercourses. The new ID and password for accessing the RAR notification is:

ID: kevanca
Pass: 1Welkome!