

Whereas:

The GVRD (Parks Department), hereinafter called GVRD, leases and manages Crown land forming part of the Pitt-Addington Marsh Wildlife Management Area for Grant Narrows Regional Park (also referred to as the 'Park') and wishes to redevelop and upgrade operation of the existing Park for improved public use and enjoyment:

The Park is in the immediate vicinity of two ancestral villages of the Katzie First Nation and is within the traditional territory identified by Katzie First Nation in their Statement of Intent which has been accepted by the British Columbia Treaty Commission for negotiation of a treaty.

The Park is a key access point for recreationists to the Pitt Lake area;

The Parties agree that the rights and interests of Katzie and the rights and interests of GVRD in the development and management of the Park would best be addressed in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding according to mutually agreed upon principles. The parties agree that this Letter of Understanding is entered into without prejudice to treaty negotiations;

The following principles and understandings will guide development of a cooperative working relationship in the redevelopment and management of the Park, namely:

GVRD and the Katzie First Nation agree that it is their mutual intent that neither the immediate or long-term aboriginal rights of the Katzie First Nation should be jeopardized by the redevelopment and management of Grant Narrows Regional Park by GVRD, nor that GVRD's rights and abilities to occupy and operate the Park should be impaired by this Letter of Understanding.

2 GVRD is prepared to work with Katzie First Nation to inform itself of the nature and extent of Katzie's rights and interests affected by GVRD's redevelopment of Grant Narrows. The Katzie First Nation will cooperate fully with GVRD in this undertaking. This effort will involve GVRD working with Katzie First Nation, Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks, District of Pitt Meadows and any other agreed upon stakeholders to review existing and future recreation opportunities and their impacts within the Pitt River watershed, including protected areas such as Pitt-Addington Marsh Wildlife Management Area, Pitt Lake, Widgeon Marsh and Pinecone-Burke Provincial Park. GVRD is willing to assign staff representatives to participate on a proposed steering committee comprised of Katzie, government agencies, interest groups and residents to coordinate planning and management of recreational use of the Pitt Lake area and on task forces addressing specific issues, subject to necessary budget and staffing approvals approved by the GVRD Board of Directors.

In Witness Whereof the parties have exec

KATZIE FIRST NATION

Signed by: Chief Diane Bailey
Chief Diane Bailey

Witnessed by: Rick Bailey
Councillor Rick Bailey

GRANT NARROWS REGIONAL PARK

Letter of Understanding

Between the Katzie First Nation and the Greater Vancouver Regional District

3 Wherever impacts on the Katzie First Nation rights and interests are identified by the Katzie and/or by GVRD the parties will commit to meet to discuss ways by which to avoid, mitigate or remedy such impacts. However, it is understood that such impacts identified through this process on lands and waters beyond the boundaries of Grant Narrows Regional Park do not necessarily imply any responsibility in whole or in part by GVRD.

4 GVRD's redevelopment plan for Grant Narrows Regional Park will avoid the archaeological sites identified by the Katzie and responsible provincial agencies and GVRD. GVRD future plans will carefully consider how best to respect and draw on any newly identified archaeological resources in the Park.

5 GVRD will monitor the number of users and the visitor use patterns within Grant Narrows Regional Park and share this information with the Katzie First Nation and other agencies.

6 GVRD will work closely with Katzie First Nation to make visitors to Grant Narrows Regional Park more aware and respectful of Katzie's traditional uses and continuing presence in the territory and their concern for wildlife protection. This will include such measures as collaboration on visitor information, interpretive projects, and signage.

7 The Katzie First Nation and GVRD may identify changing needs and interests with respect to Grant Narrows Regional Park. GVRD and Katzie First Nation agree to work cooperatively together in good faith to resolve issues arising from identification of such changing needs and interests for the future.

8 Both Katzie First Nation and GVRD support an inclusive approach to addressing recreation issues related to Pitt Lake watershed by involving local stakeholders and other agencies. GVRD commits to give consideration to becoming a participant in a locally based consultation process with the Katzie if Katzie implements such a process with formal approval of the other principal parties in treaty negotiations.


9 GVRD and the Katzie First Nation agree that they are making a commitment to consultative principles and to developing a long-term relationship; and that by this Letter of Understanding GVRD will be actively discharging its responsibilities to work in good faith with the Katzie First Nation.

GVRD will convey the spirit of this agreement to other government agencies.

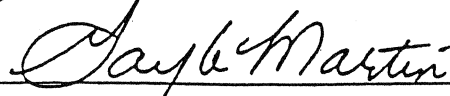
this Letter of Understanding the 10th day of December 1997.

GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Signed by: _____


Councillor George Pail, Chair GVRD Board of Directors

Witnessed by: _____


Councillor Gayle Martin, Chair GVRD Park Committee