

ESQUIMALT ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION

1101 MUNRO STREET, VICTORIA, B.C., V9A 5P2

October 08, 2019.

Claire Trevena,
Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B.C.,
V8V 1X4

The Esquimalt Anglers' Association is concerned regarding a B.C. Transit proposal to establish a Handy Dart maintenance yard at 2401 Burnside Road West, adjacent to Craigflower Creek.

The Association was formed in 1952 and has an annual membership of around 500. Our volunteers have operated a fish counting fence in this area since the early 1990's. The EAA is attempting to improve stream habitat, secure a guaranteed minimum flow and enhance a naturally spawning population of coho salmon and cutthroat trout. Recent work conducted by our partners, Peninsula Streams Society and World Fisheries Trust, has included habitat restoration work at two sites and removal of two small log jams restricting spawner access.

Members are dismayed that the B.C. government has overruled the mayor and council of the Township of View Royal, whose citizens have expressed strong opposition to citing this facility so close to the critical and fragile salmonid habitat of Craigflower Creek. Our concerns revolve around environmental protection; specifically the riparian streamside zone and runoff management.

Despite assurances and guarantees to the contrary, degradation of stream habitat and contamination through sedimentation continues to occur during construction of infrastructure projects. One has only to look at the McKenzie Avenue interchange where several such incidences have occurred. This past August there were two stop work orders issued for the sewage treatment project pipeline crossing of Colquitz River at Marigold and Interurban. This was a result of an environmental management plan which failed to avoid excessive sedimentation of the fish bearing waters.

Our members believe that similar failures at this proposed Handy Dart facility will occur and will result in water quality degradation and possible fish kills. Therefore, the Esquimalt Anglers' Association cannot support this facility being built at 2401 Burnside Road West.

Yours truly,

Wayne Zaccarelli,
Secretary,
Esquimalt Anglers' Association

cc. Mayor & Council, Township of View Royal
John Horgan, Premier, Province of B.C.
John Horgan, MLA Langford-Juan de Fuca
George Heyman, Minister of Environment (B.C.)
Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture (B.C.)
Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations (B.C.)
Mitzi Dean, MLA Esquimalt-Metchosin
Stew Young, Mayor, City of Langford
Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans & Coast Guard
Laura Brown, DFO South Coast Area Director
Brad Beath, DFO South Coast Recreational Fisheries Coordinator
Al Martin, Director of Strategic Initiatives, B.C. Wildlife Federation
Board of Directors, Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association
Goldstream Volunteer Salmonid Enhancement Association
Victoria Bowmen