



OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

March 11, 2026

EMAIL ONLY: WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
PO Bos 9012 Stn Prov. Govt
Victoria, BC V8M 9L6

Attention: Honourable Randene Neill

Dear Minister Neill:

RE: RIPARIAN AREAS REGULATION EXEMPTION REQUEST

At its last meeting the Board of Directors for the Strathcona Regional District passed the following resolution:

Mawhinney/Whalley: SRD 966/25

THAT the Regional District request an exemption from the Riparian Area Regulation.

An issue arose following an attempt by the Regional District to address a complaint of non-compliance with the Riparian Area Regulation, which was ultimately reviewed by the Office of the Ombudsperson. Despite best efforts, the matter could not be resolved due to the significant time, financial costs, and other resources that would have been required of the SRD.

Through this process, it became apparent to the Board that the size of the Strathcona Regional District, combined with the extent of riparian areas within its boundaries, makes it likely that similar issues will arise in the future. Other regional districts on Vancouver Island have been granted exemptions from the application of the Riparian Area Regulation (BC Reg. 178/2019) and this may be an appropriate solution for the Strathcona Regional District.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Strathcona Regional District also be exempted from the application of the Riparian Area Regulation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Baker", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Mark Baker
Chair

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