

West Creek Awareness Group

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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
310-1500 Woolridge
Coquitlam, BC, V3K 0B8

Via email HWY1FV@gov.bc.ca

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Attention: Fraser Valley Highway 1 Corridor Improvement Program

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: Fraser Valley Highway 1 Corridor Improvement Program (FVCIP) – Public Engagement

West Creek Awareness Group (WCAG) is comprised of a broad range of residents of the Township of Langley and Abbotsford. One primary goal is protecting West Creek and especially the headwaters from harm. Some of members have been involved toward this end since the late 1970s at the time that Gloucester Industrial Estate was in the early planning stages. In spite of our interventions there have been a number of activities over the past 20 years that have had negative impacts on one of the 14 most sensitive watercourses in B.C. according to the B.C. Water Sustainability Act.

Recently we have received funding from West Coast Environmental Law EDRF to explore various options that can be taken to restore West Creek headwaters from some of the harm done over the past five years. One viable and practical option according to Environmental Engineer Romilly Cavanaugh PEng. is to do the restoration of the creek headwater by daylighting the section that was encased in a concrete tunnel without the required provincial or federal regulatory approvals.

According to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Feb. 2019 “The West Creek watershed has historically been a productive coho, chinook, and chum salmon system, along with supporting cutthroat trout and steelhead populations and other finfish. Currently, juvenile and adult coho salmon are sighted in the area annually ... These coho are a natural (wild) stock, and natural salmon stocks from the many smaller streams and their tributaries in coastal BC are important contributors to the genetic diversity and overall wellbeing of salmon in BC. Therefore, West Creek, its headwaters, and its tributaries should be protected as much as possible in order to continue to provide suitable spawning and rearing habitat for salmon, and also be protected to help maintain all the other diversity of life that utilizes the watershed.”

WCAG appreciate the *Active Transportation Strategy Report* Message from the Minister¹ “We are **focused on protecting our environment** because there is nothing more important than taking care of the place we call home.” We believe that restoration of the headwaters of West Creek during the Corridor Improvement Program is in alignment with and compliments that goal.

Lynn Perrin, Chairperson, West Creek Awareness Group

1. <https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/active/>