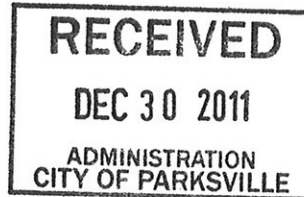




December 16, 2011

His Worship Chris Burger, Mayor
City of Parksville
100 Jensen Ave E
Parksville BC V9P 2H3



Dear Mayor Burger:

Thank you for meeting with me on Tuesday, September 27 at the 2011 UBCM Convention to discuss the Arrowsmith Water Service (AWS).

I appreciated receiving further details on the AWS's successful operation of the Arrowsmith Dam and was pleased to hear of recent signs that salmon stocks are recovering. The provincial government applauds your efforts to complete the new treatment plant project by 2015 and hopes that you can soon reach an agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) on a location for the new intake that will improve water quality and protect fish habitat. I am also intrigued by your exploration of aqua storage potential and hope to hear more once you have completed scoping and feasibility studies.

I understand that AWS representatives have met regional staff several times to discuss this and other issues. I have asked staff to determine whether they can assist in future discussions with DFO and encourage you to continue working with them. Once a water licence amendment application for the intake is received, I assure you that it will be processed expeditiously.

Again, thank you for meeting with me to provide an update on this important project.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson
Minister

pc: Ron Cantelon, MLA (Parksville-Qualicum)
Brian Clark, A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Coast Area
Sharon Hadway, Regional Executive Director, West Coast Region
Myles Mana, Director, Authorizations, West Coast Region