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City Stepping Up Environmental Measures on Projects

In response to stormy weather that led to silt runoff, the City of Campbell River will enhance environmental monitoring of outdoor projects.

“As the organization that sets the standard for all residents and projects in the City, we recognize the importance of doing the job right,” emphasizes Mayor Roger McDonell. *“This winter, we have seen work areas affected by weather that brought unanticipated consequences, and we intend to put a structure in place to better protect the surrounding environment when we have projects underway. We have also scrutinized other outdoor projects to ensure the weather is not interfering with our environmental protection measures, and we intend to step up our monitoring efforts, especially in times of extreme weather.”*

City projects are planned according to riparian, fish habitat and land development guidelines from senior levels of government, and work done for the City by contractors must also contain protective provisions and a monitoring system.

“Whether it’s our Public Works department or a contractor, the same rules apply. We’re all expected to have plans in place and monitor the results,” he says. *“In the case of controlling silt runoff at City Hall early this winter, our understanding is a management plan was in place and approved by Fisheries. Despite our employees’ efforts to adhere to that plan, clearly, the methods were not adequate for the weather conditions. We’re now putting an even more protective plan in place.”*

The Mayor confirms City staff have been directed to increase vigilance around environmental protection measures, particularly planning for increased monitoring that takes into account the intensity and unpredictability of local storms at this time of year.

– 30 –

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