

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
FLOOD RESILIENCY COMMITTEE**

MEETING

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

9:00 am

28th Floor Committee room, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia

Webstream available at <https://www.metrovancover.org>

A G E N D A¹

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. November 20, 2024 Meeting Agenda

That the Flood Resiliency Committee adopt the agenda for its meeting scheduled for November 20, 2024 as circulated.

B. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

1. July 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

That the Flood Resiliency Committee adopt the minutes of its meeting held July 12, 2024 as circulated.

pg. 3

C. DELEGATIONS

D. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

E. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Atmospheric River Event – Flooding & Operational Impacts

Verbal Update

Designated Speaker:

Brant Arnold-Smith, Division Manager, Protective Services & Emergency Management

pg. 7

¹ Note: Recommendation is shown under each item, where applicable.

- 2. Committee Discussion of Impacts of the October 2024 Atmospheric River on Member Jurisdictions** pg. 21
That the Flood Resiliency Committee receive for information the report dated November 8, 2024, titled “Committee Discussion of Impacts of the October 2024 Atmospheric River on Member Jurisdictions”.
- 3. Manager’s Report** pg. 29
That the Flood Resiliency Committee receive for information the report dated November 6, 2024, titled “Manager’s Report”.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Correspondence dated October 2, 2024, addressed to Metro Vancouver Board Chair Mike Hurley, from Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship Lori Halls, regarding prioritization and resourcing of the BC Flood Strategy, as it relates to the Metro Vancouver region pg. 32

G. OTHER BUSINESS

H. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

Note: The Committee must state by resolution the basis under section 90 of the Community Charter on which the meeting is being closed. If a member wishes to add an item, the basis must be included below.

I. ADJOURNMENT

That the Flood Resiliency Committee adjourn its meeting of November 20, 2024.

Membership:

Kruger, Dylan (C) – Delta	Djonlic, Matt – Coquitlam	McCutcheon, Jen – Electoral Area A
MacDonald, Nicole (VC) – Pitt Meadows	Dueck, Judy – Maple Ridge	McNulty, Bill – Richmond
Bose, Mike – Surrey	Ferguson, Steve – Langley Township	West, Brad – Port Coquitlam
Cassidy, Laura – scəwəθən məsteyəx ^w (Tsawwassen First Nation)	Johnstone, Patrick – New Westminster	

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
FLOOD RESILIENCY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Flood Resiliency Committee held at 9:00 am on Friday, July 12, 2024 in the 28th Floor Committee Room, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair, Director Dylan Kruger, Delta
 Vice Chair, Director Nicole MacDonald, Pitt Meadows
 Councillor Mike Bose, Surrey
 Director Laura Cassidy, scəwəθən məsteyəx^w (Tsawwassen First Nation)*
 Councillor Matt Djonlic, Coquitlam
 Councillor Judy Dueck, Maple Ridge
 Director Steve Ferguson, Langley Township
 Director Jen McCutcheon, Electoral Area A
 Director Bill McNulty, Richmond
 Director Brad West, Port Coquitlam*

*denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by the *Procedure Bylaw*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Director Patrick Johnstone, New Westminster

OTHERS PRESENT:

Deborah Carlson, Staff Lawyer, West Coast Environmental Law
 Gillian Fuss, Program Manager, Emergency Planning Secretariat
 Tyrone McNeil, Sto:lo Tribal Chief and Chair of the Emergency Planning Secretariat
 Mariah Mund, Resilience Lead, Emergency Planning Secretariat
 Kelly Sims, Director, Flood Policy, BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

STAFF PRESENT:

Heather McNell, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Policy and Planning
 Catherine Grosson, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services
 Marcin Pachcinski, Division Manager, Electoral Area and Implementation Services, Regional
 Planning and Housing Services

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. July 12, 2024 Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Flood Resiliency Committee adopt the agenda for its meeting scheduled for July 12, 2024 as circulated.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

1. April 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Flood Resiliency Committee adopt the minutes of its meeting held April 18, 2024 as circulated.

CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS

No items presented.

D. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

1. Mariah Mund, Resilience Lead, Emergency Planning Secretariat, and Deborah Carlson, Staff Lawyer, West Coast Environmental Law

Subject: Lifelines of the Fraser Estuary – Working Together for Floodplains Resilience

Mariah Mund and Deborah Carlson provided members with a presentation titled “Lifelines in the Fraser Estuary” which outlined that the Lower Fraser Floodplains Coalition:

- Lifelines in the Fraser Estuary initiative is about building climate resilience related to flood events in the Fraser estuary region;
- is working towards identifying areas of alignment between local governments and First Nations; and
- seeks opportunities to secure federal funding by using a collaborative approach.

2. **Tyrone McNeil, Sto:lo Tribal Chief and Chair of the Emergency Planning Secretariat, and Gillian Fuss, Program Manager, Emergency Planning Secretariat**
Subject: Hilekw Sq'eq'o: A First Nations Regional Approach to Emergency Management

Tyrone McNeil and Gillian Fuss provided members with a presentation titled "Metrovan Session July 2024" which outlined the work that the Emergency Planning Secretariat does and the importance of:

- bringing Mainland Coast Salish communities together with a common strategy;
- identifying opportunities for flood resilience measures to be taken to protect communities, obligations to non-human relatives, and maintaining the natural landscape for future generations; and
- building preparedness through strategic partnerships while respecting the rights of First Nations communities.

In response Chair Kruger requested that staff circulate the presentation titled "Metrovan Session July 2024" to committee members.

E. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. **Regional Flood Resiliency Initiatives Scan and Prioritization Matrix – Scope of Work**
Report dated June 18, 2024 from Marcin Pachcinski, Division Manager, Electoral Area and Implementation Services, Regional Planning and Housing Services providing the Flood Resiliency Committee and MVRD Board with the scope of work for the following two regional flood resiliency-related projects: a scan of initiatives in the region and the development of a prioritization matrix.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the MVRD Board receive for information the Regional Flood Resiliency Initiatives Scan and Prioritization Matrix Scope of Work, as presented in the report dated June 18, 2024, titled "Regional Flood Resiliency Initiatives Scan and Prioritization Matrix – Scope of Work".

CARRIED

2. **Manager's Report**
Report dated June 17, 2024 from Heather McNell, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Policy and Planning providing an overview of flood resiliency initiatives throughout the subregions of the Lower Fraser.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Flood Resiliency Committee receive for information the report dated June 17, 2024, titled "Manager's Report".

CARRIED

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

No items presented.

G. OTHER BUSINESS

No items presented.

H. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Flood Resiliency Committee close its meeting scheduled for July 12, 2024 pursuant to section 226 (1) (a) of the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* provisions as follows:

- 90 (2) A part of a council meeting must be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to one or more of the following:
- (b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

CARRIED

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Flood Resiliency Committee adjourn its meeting of June 17, 2024.

CARRIED
(Time: 9:51am)

Catherine Grosson,
Legislative Services Coordinator

Dylan Kruger,
Chair

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Atmospheric River Event

FLOODING & OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Brant Arnold-Smith

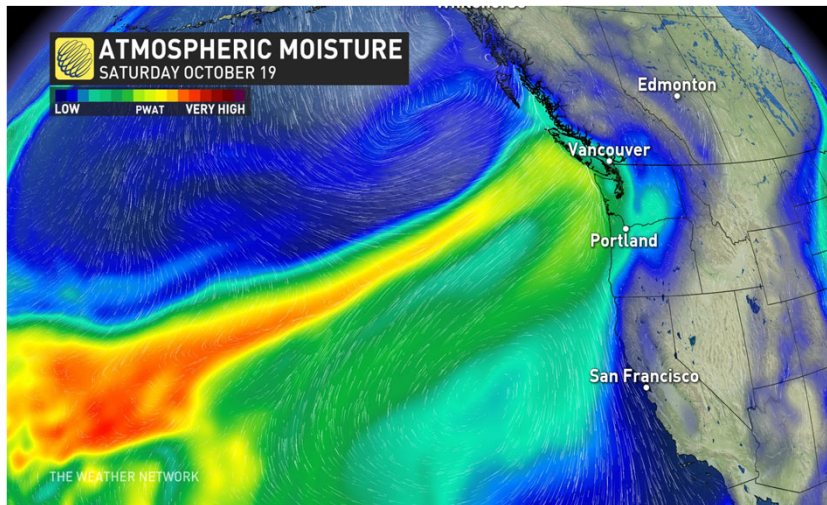
Division Manager-Protective Services & Emergency Management

Metro Vancouver Flood Resiliency Committee November 20, 2024
Orbit 71955885

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AGENDA

1. What is an Atmospheric River
2. Atmospheric River Forecasting
3. Atmospheric River Actual Rainfall Amounts
4. Organizational Response

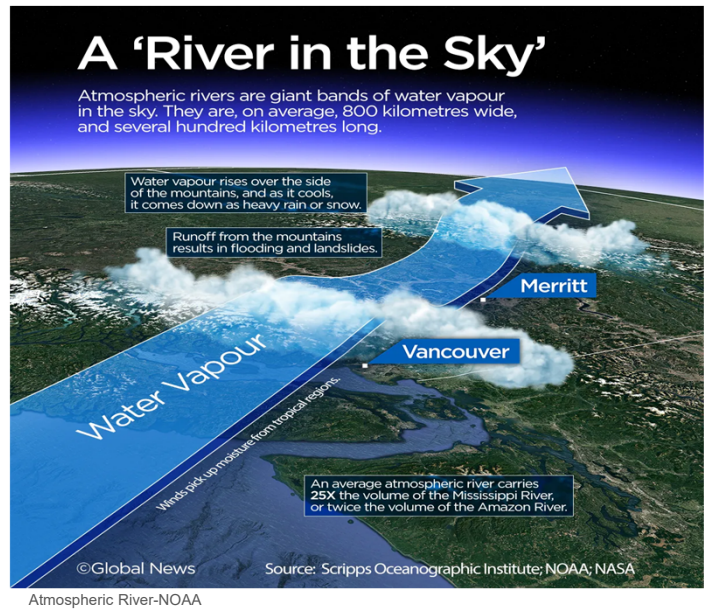


Weather Network Radar Image

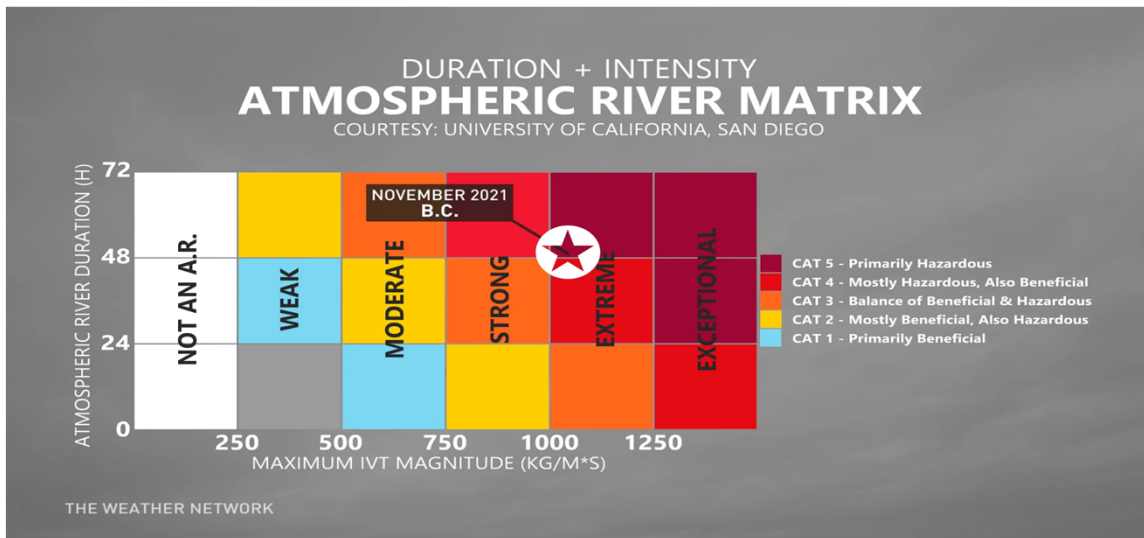
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WHAT IS AN ATMOSPHERIC RIVER ?

- Atmospheric rivers are, for the most part, what you might imagine from the name — rivers in the sky.
- They're long, narrow bands in the atmosphere that carry large amounts of water vapour, usually from the tropics where water and atmospheric moisture are abundant.
- These rivers in the sky can occur anywhere in the world, but they often impact the West Coast of North America, such as British Columbia.



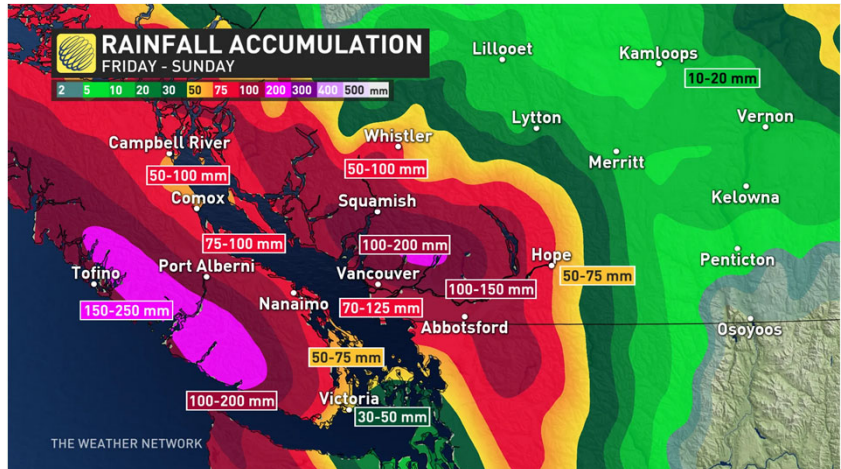
WHAT IS AN ATMOSPHERIC RIVER ?



University of California-Atmospheric River Matrix

ATMOSPHERIC RIVER FORECASTING

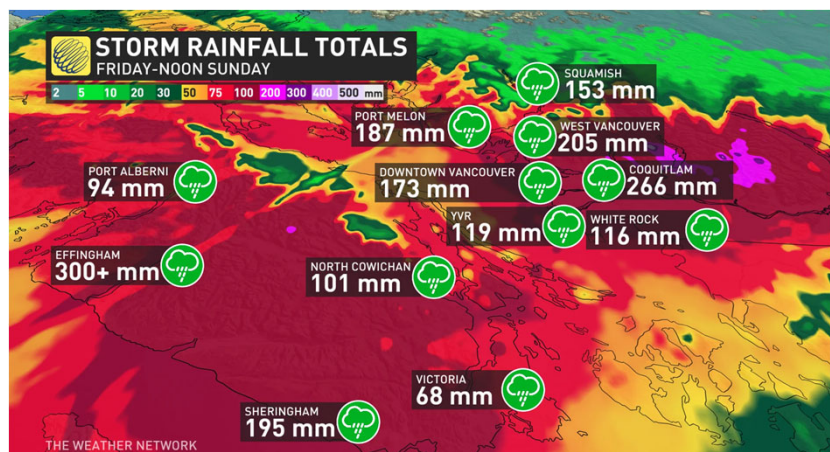
- Original Forecast for the Atmospheric River Event (AR - CAT 3)
- 100-200mm on the North Shore & MV Watersheds
- 70-150 mm in other areas of Metro Vancouver



Weather Network - Rainfall Accumulation Forecast

ATMOSPHERIC RIVER ACTUAL RAINFALL ACCUMILATIONS

- Coquitlam (Burke Mountain): 266 mm
- Coquitlam Dam 355mm
- West Vancouver: 205 mm
- Port Melon (Howe Sound): 187 mm
- Vancouver Harbour: 173 mm
- Squamish: 153 mm
- White Rock: 116 mm
- Vancouver International Airport (YVR): 119 mm



Weather Network-Actual Rainfall Accumulation

ATMOSPHERIC RIVER ACTUAL RAINFALL ACCUMILATIONS



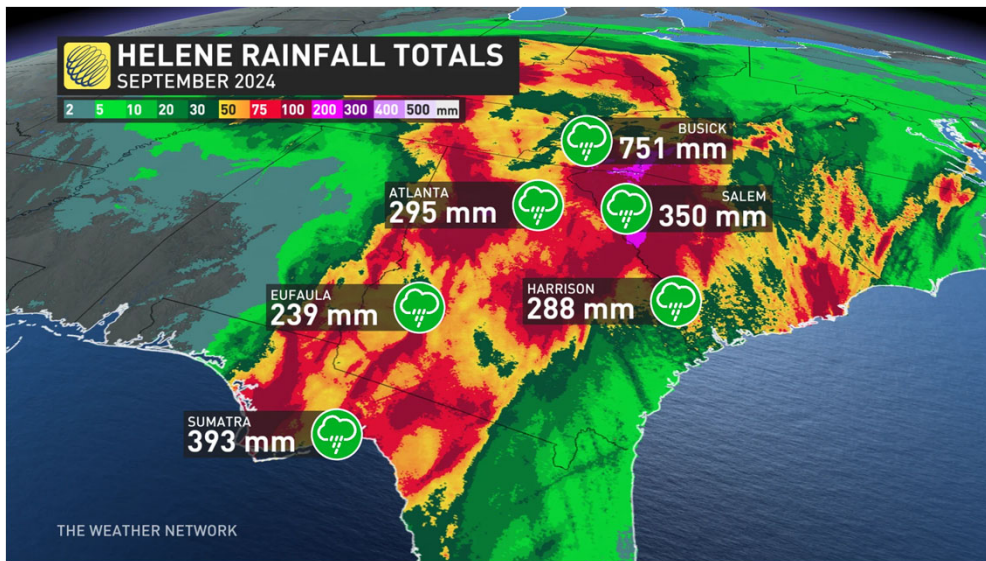
Precipitation Amounts					
Capilano Watershed		Seymour Watershed		Coquitlam Watershed	
Lower Capilano	322 mm	Lower Seymour	307 mm	Coquitlam FW	245 mm
Capilano FW	247 mm	Seymour FW	189 mm	Coquitlam Dam	353 mm
Hesketh	278 mm	Seymour Crossing	194 mm	Upper Coquitlam	272 mm
Palisade Lake	305 mm	Orchid Lake	238 mm	Disappointment Lake	258 mm
Average	288 mm	Average	232 mm	Average	282 mm

Forecasted Precipitation: The Oct. 18 watershed weather forecast called for 250-360 mm of rain during this storm event.

Actual Observed: 190-355 mm (267 average)

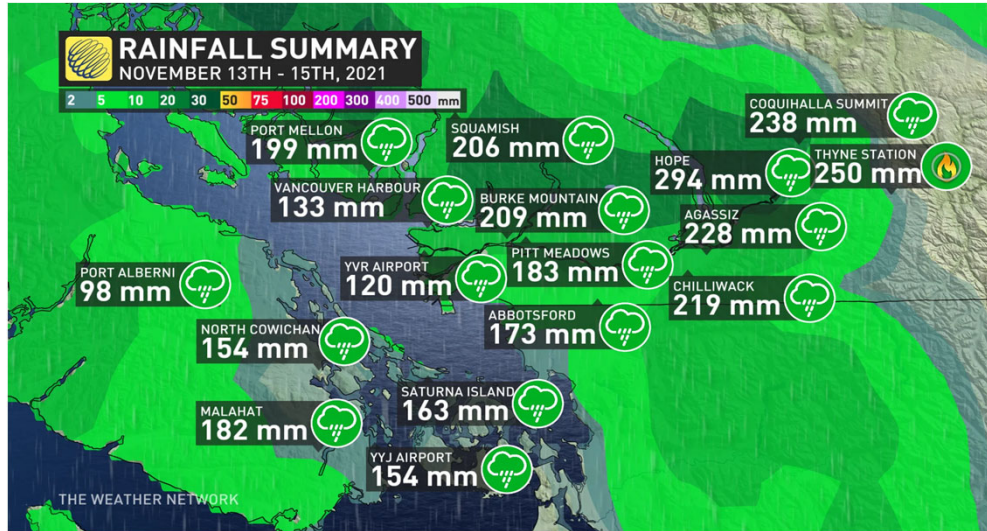
Comments: Rainfall was very heavy throughout the region, but heaviest on the front-side of the watersheds, and in North and West Vancouver. There were several hours of ~20 mm/hr on Saturday. The Lower Capilano FW station saw its highest one-day rainfall on Oct. 19 with 217 mm (2002-present), and highest event total precipitation (322 mm). Hourly rainfall at the Capilano Lakehead gauge is shown in the plot below.

ATMOSPHERIC RIVER RAINFALL VS HURRICANE HELENE



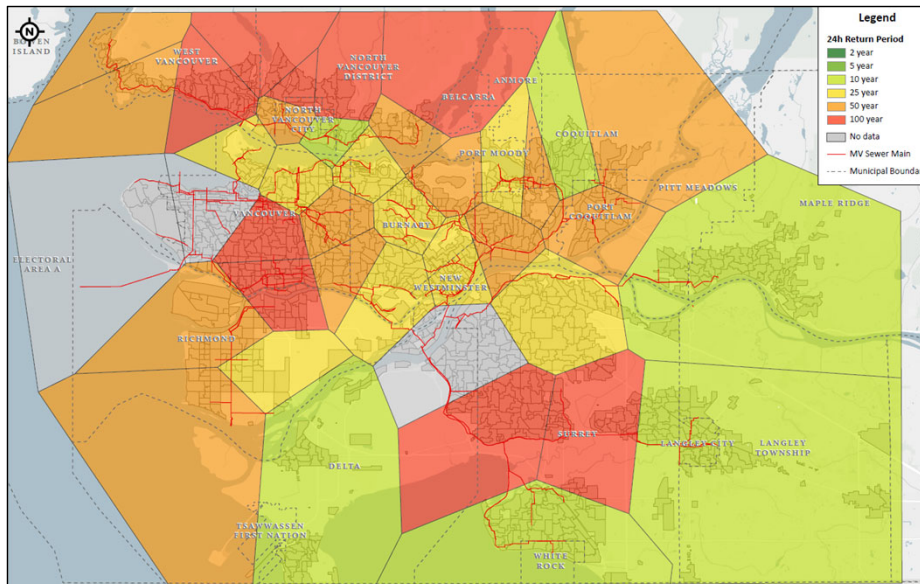
Weather Network- Hurricane Helene Rainfall Accumulation

OCTOBER 2024 AR VS NOVEMBER 2021 AR



Weather Network 2021 AR Rainfall Actual Accumulation

ATMOSPHERIC RIVER – RAINFALL ACTUALS



METRO VANCOUVER COMMUNICATIONS

MV Board Update, Website, Social Media



Station in Stanley Park. we are working closely with Vancouver @ParkBoard to minimize impacts to residents and the park. We will continue to provide updates as we respond to issues caused by this weekend's atmospheric river.

Metro Vancouver @MetroV... · 2024-10-20 ...
Heavy rainfall has impacted a number of regional parks. Some parks, roads & trails are closed. If you're going to a regional park, use extra caution. Expect flooding on trails, down...



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METRO VANCOUVER COMMUNICATIONS

MV Board Update, Website, Social Media



Metro Vancouver @MetroVa... · 2024-10-18 ...
Grouse Mountain Regional Park is closed due to heavy rainfall effective 4:30 pm Friday, October 18 and will remain closed until Monday, October 21, when park staff will assess and d...

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Directors,

Update on Impacts of Atmospheric River on Metro Vancouver Operations

Metro Vancouver is currently responding to the impacts of this weekend's atmospheric river. Throughout the past week, staff have prepared for the weather event by increasing coverage and readying crews for deployment throughout the region.

Liquid Waste Services

Liquid waste operations and maintenance teams procured emergency supplies such as sandbags, pumping systems, and tiger dams, and prepared the collection system and treatment plants for increased wet weather flows. Crews are at impacted sites, and will remain deployed around the clock until operational issues are resolved. We are working closely with member jurisdiction staff to minimize impacts to residents and the environment.

Currently, significant events include:

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REGIONAL PARKS



Capilano River Regional Park



Kanaka Creek Regional Park

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REGIONAL PARKS



Campbell Valley Regional Park



Delta South Surrey Greenway

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REGIONAL PARKS



Capilano River Regional Park



Tynehead Regional Park

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REGIONAL PARKS



Kanaka Creek Regional Park



Minnehada Regional Park

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REGIONAL PARKS



Pacific Spirit Regional Park

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REGIONAL PARKS



Delta Nature Reserve

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18

REGIONAL PARKS



Lynn Headwaters Regional Park

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19

REGIONAL PARKS



Pacific Spirit Regional Park



Widgeon Marsh Regional Park

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LIQUID WASTE SERVICES



Chilco Pump Station, Stanley Park

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LIQUID WASTE SERVICES



Chilco Pump Station, Stanley Park

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LIQUID WASTE SERVICES



Chilco Pump Station, Stanley Park

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LIQUID WASTE SERVICES



Blundell Sewer, Richmond

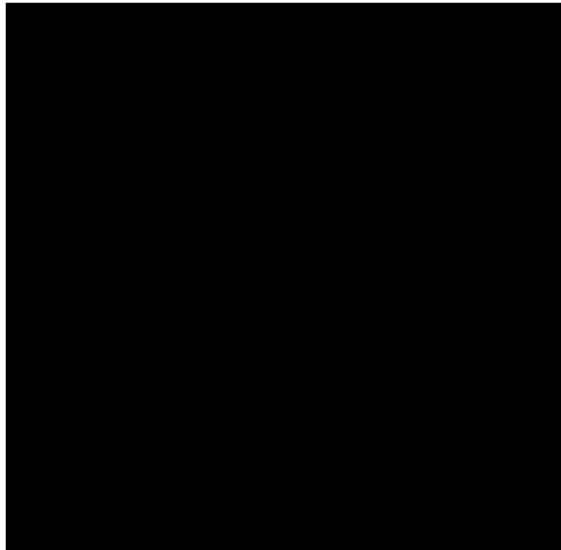
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LIQUID WASTE SERVICES



Sewer Break, North Surrey



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WATER SERVICES



Beaver Creek Washout



Pipeline Rd Washout

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WATER SERVICES



HollyBurn Slide



Coquitlam Reservoir - Turbidity

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Grouse Mountain Regional Park

Questions?

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To: Flood Resiliency Committee

From: Marcin Pachcinski, Division Manager Electoral Area and Implementation Services,
Regional Planning and Housing Services

Date: November 8, 2024 Meeting Date: November 20, 2024

Subject: **Committee Discussion of Impacts of the October 2024 Atmospheric River on
Member Jurisdictions**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Flood Resiliency Committee receive for information the report dated November 8, 2024, titled "Committee Discussion of Impacts of the October 2024 Atmospheric River on Member Jurisdictions".

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The October 19, 2024 atmospheric river impacted number Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions. Given the widespread and varying impacts, this report sets up an opportunity for members of the Flood Resiliency Committee to discuss how their communities were impacted and responded to the atmospheric river event.

PURPOSE

To provide committee members an opportunity to discuss municipal responses and issues associated with the October 2024 atmospheric river event.

BACKGROUND

On October 19, 2024, an atmospheric river hit the Metro Vancouver region and brought record breaking rainfall, flooding, widespread power outages, and a mudslide in Coquitlam that washed away a home and killed one person. The impacts were felt by member jurisdictions across the region.

To help frame a discussion on the impacts and responses, below are the key responsibilities of the Committee, as taken from the Terms of Reference (Reference 1):

Key responsibilities for the Committee include:

- Reviewing the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy and the Provincial Flood Management Strategy;
- Reviewing the potential impacts on the region and Metro Vancouver Regional District members by the severe flooding in November and December of 2021;
- Identifying risks and gaps in the existing infrastructure to mitigate flooding;
- Identifying short term capital investment to repair damage to the infrastructure from recent floods;
- Identifying longer term capital investment to bring infrastructure to withstand predicted flooding due to climate change;

- Considering Metro Vancouver regional priorities and issues for the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy;
- Identifying roles and responsibilities of all orders of government to financing, developing and maintaining the infrastructure;
- Considering options to coordinate and collaborate with:
 - a) Metro Vancouver Regional District members;
 - b) Fraser Valley Regional District;
 - c) First Nations;
 - d) Provincial government; and
 - e) Federal government; and
- Reporting back to the Metro Vancouver Board with advice and recommendations on flood resiliency and related matters.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report; there are no alternatives presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

CONCLUSION

This report sets the stage for a discussion by committee members on how the October 2024 atmospheric river impacted their communities, in line with the committee's terms of reference.

ATTACHMENT

1. Prioritization Framework for Funding Capital Projects Presentation

REFERENCE

1. Flood Resiliency Committee [Terms of Reference](#)

72038295



Prioritization Framework for Funding Capital Projects

FLOOD INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT ACROSS THE REGION

Marcin Pachcinski


Division Manager, Electoral Area and Implementation Services

Flood Resiliency Committee November 20, 2024

Linda Fang / Justin Chan

Ebbwater Consulting

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Metro Vancouver

Federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation


2.8 Million people (53% of provincial population)

Flood Resiliency Committee is standing Committee of MVRD Board

2024 Work Plan

- Capital Projects Scan
- Prioritization Framework

Municipal Boundary
 Treaty Lands
 First Nation Reserves



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RISK AND RESILIENCE

Examples of Existing Criteria Used in Funding Applications

- Community resilience defined by four key indicators:
 - loss of life
 - % directly affected
 - % local economic loss
 - % pop. without essential services
- Critical infrastructure
- Degree to which the community has evaluated mitigation options
- Project rationale and risk assessment, including map
- Risk and damage reduction from future natural hazards

SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Examples of Existing Criteria Used in Funding Applications

- Climate change impacts are considered
- Co-benefits (e.g. supports ecosystem services)
- Iterative and flexible actions; avoids locking in unsustainable actions
- Nature-based solutions / fish-friendly design

INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

Examples of Existing Criteria Used in Funding Applications

- Advances UNDRIP priorities
- First Nations leadership and involvement
- Protect areas of cultural significance

EQUITY

Examples of Existing Criteria Used in Funding Applications

- Benefits diverse populations (e.g. “addresses the needs of groups disproportionately impacted by emergency events”)
- Regional equity
- Supports small and rural communities

CAPACITY AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Examples of Existing Criteria Used in Funding Applications

- Capacity to deliver the project
- Cost-effectiveness
- Economic opportunities / job training or creation
- Leveraging other funding sources
- Project progress measures
- Return on investment (avoided response and recovery, avoided disruption, protection of critical infrastructure)

SURVEY

- Survey
- Prioritize and add to existing criteria
- Will be used to inform current work to create a list of regionally-relevant criteria that can be used by communities to value different flood risk-reduction projects
- Identifiable information is optional
- Next steps



Thank you.

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To: Flood Resiliency Committee

From: Heather McNell, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Policy and Planning

Date: November 6, 2024 Meeting Date: November 20, 2024

Subject: **Manager's Report**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Flood Resiliency Committee receive for information the report dated November 6, 2024, titled "Manager's Report".

FLOOD RESILIENCY COMMITTEE 2024 WORK PLAN

The Flood Resiliency Committee's Work Plan for 2024 is attached to this report (Attachment 1). The status of work program elements is indicated as pending, in progress, ongoing or complete. The listing is updated as needed to include new issues that arise, items requested by the committee, and changes to the schedule.

REGIONAL FLOOD RESILIENCY INITIATIVES SCAN AND PRIORITIZATION MATRIX – UPDATE

In July 2024, the Committee received information and provided feedback on the scope of work for two interrelated regional flood planning projects:

1. a scan of flood risk reduction capital projects; and
2. a project prioritization matrix that can help standardize the categories and values used to assess and prioritize future projects.

As an update on the first project, Metro Vancouver has been working with Ebbwater Consulting Ltd. to review capital projects that have been funded through provincial and federal grant programs and is working on developing a map that will illustrate where the majority of funding has gone over the last several years, including the project types, their distribution, scale, and other key information. A list of over 50 projects has been identified and the projects are currently being mapped. Staff expect to present the maps to the Committee in early 2025.

For the second project, staff and Ebbwater Consulting Ltd. are gathering information from funding programs to come up with key criteria that are regionally-specific. Part of this work involves seeking input on what criteria are important to different groups and organizations in the region. Initial input will be sought through the November 13, 2024 Coastal/River Tidal Gathering. A draft of the prioritization matrix is expected to be completed by the second half of 2025 and will be presented to the Committee for feedback at that time.

NOVEMBER 13 VIRTUAL COASTAL/RIVER TIDAL GATHERING

On November 13, the Lower Fraser Floodplains Coalition, including the First Nations-led Emergency Planning Secretariat, held the second Lower Fraser Floodplains Dialogue for Regional Action: Coastal/River Tidal Gathering. The gathering was co-hosted by Flood Resiliency Committee Chair Kruger and k'w'ik'w'əłəm (Kwikwetlem) Councillor George Chaffee.

This virtual second gathering built on the discussions that took place during the first such gathering in March 2024 (see Reference 1). The objectives of the November 13 gathering were to:

- identify/confirm a set of actions and objectives to guide ongoing efforts and ensure we are collectively aiming in the same direction; and
- generate feedback, guidance and ideas for what is needed to implement integrated floodplain management with context of the recently released *BC Flood Strategy*.

The gathering included small discussion groups around:

- progress made to date for a regional approach to flood resilience and ways communities are working together; and
- ways to coordinate messaging to the provincial government to have them play a leadership role and provide adequate funding.

Metro Vancouver participated in this gathering through opening remarks from the Flood Resiliency Committee Chair Kruger, participation from several committee members, and through a staff presentation. The staff presentation provided background on existing funding criteria and solicited feedback from gathering participants via a survey that will inform on-going work to develop a prioritization matrix. The next gathering is planned for March 2025.

ATTACHMENT

1. Flood Resiliency Committee 2024 Work Plan

REFERENCES

1. March 2024 Lower Fraser Floodplains Dialogue for Regional Action Coastal River–Tidal Gathering [Summary Report](#)

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Flood Resiliency Committee 2024 Work Plan

Report Date: November 8, 2024

Priorities

2nd Quarter	Status
Flood Resiliency Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan	Completed
BC Flood Strategy – Update	Completed
Lower Fraser Floodplains Dialogues – Update	Completed
Scan of Flood-related Initiatives in the Metro Vancouver Region – Update	Completed
3rd Quarter	Status
Metro Vancouver Regional Flood Risk Reduction Priorities – Update	Completed
Lower Fraser Floodplains Dialogues – Update	Completed
Metro Vancouver Freshet Response – Update	Completed
4th Quarter	Status
Metro Vancouver Regional Flood Risk Reduction Priorities – Update	Completed
Lower Fraser Floodplains Dialogues – Update	Completed
BC Flood Strategy – Update	Completed



Metro Vancouver
CAO Executive Offices

OCT 02 2024

RECEIVED

Reference: 43190

October 2, 2024

VIA EMAIL: CAOAdministration@metrovancover.org

Mike Hurley, Chair
Metro Vancouver Board
4515 Central Boulevard
Burnaby, British Columbia
V5H 0C6

Dear Mike Hurley:

Thank you for your letter of September 6, 2024, to the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, requesting prioritization and resourcing of the BC Flood Strategy, as it relates to the Metro Vancouver region. As Deputy Minister, I have been asked to respond.

I appreciate the information you shared and the joint interest of the Metro Vancouver Flood Resiliency Committee to advance the B.C. Flood Strategy.

The province is currently in an election period; therefore, the ministry is unable to comment on the BC Flood Strategy. This letter is to acknowledge the receipt of your correspondence. Once the election results are final, the incoming government will appoint its Cabinet, and regular communication can resume. Thank you for your patience during this time.

Sincerely,

Lori Halls
Deputy Minister

September 6, 2024

File: CR-12-01
Ref: RD 2024 07 26

The Honourable Nathan Cullen, M.L.A.
Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
PO Box 9012 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8M 9L6
VIA EMAIL: WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Cullen:

BC Flood Strategy

At its July 26, 2024 regular meeting, the Board of Directors of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) passed the following resolution:

That the MVRD Board write letters to the Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, and the Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, requesting that the implementation of the BC Flood Strategy be prioritized, expedited, and adequately resourced as it relates to the Metro Vancouver region.

In April 2024, the Metro Vancouver Flood Resiliency Committee received a presentation from provincial staff on the *BC Flood Strategy* (the Strategy).

The Flood Resiliency Committee was established to facilitate coordination among affected member jurisdictions for flood resiliency planning and implementation. Many members had already been participating in the provincially-supported *Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy* process since 2014, which produced helpful flood risk maps and data.

The release of the *BC Flood Strategy* is welcome news, and the Board supports the Strategy's scope and ambitious list of actions. Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions are committed to supporting the Province in advancing the *Flood Strategy*. For the plan to be effectively implemented, the Province needs to play a leading role and allocate sufficient resources while ensuring coordination with other provincial initiatives, such as the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*. A key part of the Flood Resiliency Committee's work plan is to identify regional flood risk reduction priorities and consider funding sources. Metro Vancouver and its members

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jurisdictions are actively participating in current flood resiliency planning with provincial support from the Emergency Planning Secretariat and Lower Fraser Flood Plains Coalition. The *BC Flood Strategy's* intent to shift from flood risk to resilience by 2035 underscores the need for the Province to lead and dedicate adequate resources to ensure that regional flood resiliency planning directly advances the Strategy's 25 actions.

Together, we must optimize the work previously undertaken on understanding flood risk in the region and accelerate our collective efforts to move beyond planning and into investing in flood resilient infrastructure. The Metro Vancouver Board of Directors respectfully requests that the provincial government prioritize and coordinate the implementation of the *BC Flood Strategy*, and work with the federal government to help support and fund the flood resilience infrastructure needed in our region.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Hurley
Chair, Metro Vancouver Board

MH/JC/mp

cc: Jerry W. Dobrovolny, Commissioner/Chief Administrative Officer, Metro Vancouver
Heather McNell, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Policy and Planning, Metro Vancouver

Encl: [Metro Vancouver Board report dated July 12, 2024, titled "BC Flood Strategy" \(pg. 191\)](#)

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