

Rick Daykin  
Manager of Parks Services  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
6300 Hammond Bay Road  
Nanaimo BC V9T 6N2

**RE: Letter of Support regarding Coats Marsh Weir Replacement**

The Nature Trust of British Columbia (NTBC) has had recent discussions with the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and have reviewed a recently completed report prepared for the RDN by Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Ltd. regarding the Coats Marsh weir. The weir is recognized as an aging piece of infrastructure related to water control at Coats Marsh. Please accept this letter of support as confirmation from the Nature Trust of British Columbia (NTBC) that we support an approach that seeks to decommission the existing weir and retain an existing significant beaver dam present in Coats Marsh (the Project), a nature based solution to future water control at Coats Marsh. To that end, NTBC is committed to supporting the RDN with any future grant applications and discussions related to the Project.

Sincerely



Jason Emery

Director of Conservation land Management

Nature Trust of British Columbia



July 7 2023

**To: Mr. Rick Daykin  
Regional District of Nanaimo,  
6300 Hammond Bay Road,  
Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2**

Dear Mr. Daykin:

**Re: Ecological Gift BC109 (Coats Marsh Regional Park, Gabriola Island)**

I am writing in response to your letter of June 30, 2023. In your letter, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and The Nature Trust of BC (TNT BC) requests authorization from the Minister of the Environment for a change of use for Coats Marsh Regional Park for the decommissioning of a defective concrete weir in favor of a nature-based design (existing beaver dam) to manage the marsh water levels. The Ecological Gift was donated by Mr. Clyde Coats, and is legally described as PID 009-735-828, NW 1/4 of Section 10, Gabriola Island, Nanaimo District, except those parts in Plans 29152, 30043 and 30051.

Environment Canada considers a recipient to have changed the use of an ecological gift if the recipient: a) undertakes any action that results in, or could result in, a diminution of the ecological condition or protection of the ecological gift; or b) fails to take reasonable action to manage and protect the ecological condition of the ecological gift. Environment Canada staff have reviewed the RDN's change in use request to decommission the aging concrete weir. Removing the concrete weir while retaining the beaver dam in combination with installing boulders and riparian plantings at the marsh outlet (nature-based solution) will minimize disturbance to the park and retain the aquatic habitat and marsh ecosystem.

Authorization of this disposition is hereby granted based on the transaction described by RDN to Environment Canada in the June 29, 2023, letter and July 1, 2023, pdf of the NHC Coats Marsh Weir Final Report Section 2.2-2.3 (copy enclosed).

Please contact Joy Bruno (604-787-5624) of my office if you have any questions about these provisions or about the Program in general.

Sincerely,

**Hammond, Blair** Digitally signed by Hammond, Blair  
Date: 2023.07.11 08:55:22 -07'00'

Blair Hammond  
Regional Director  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Pacific & Yukon Region

Cc: Jason Emery, TNT BC