

July 16, 2026

File: CR-12-01
Ref: RD 2026 05 29

Kirn Dhillon, Chief Administrative Officer
Bowen Island Municipality
580 Bowen Island Trunk Rd
Bowen Island, BC V0N 1G2
VIA EMAIL: kdhillon@bimbc.ca

Dear Kirn Dhillon:

Re: Orphan Dike Advocacy Letter to the Province

At its May 29, 2026 regular meeting, the Board of Directors of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) passed the following resolution:

THAT the MVRD Board:

- a) request that the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen include specific references to the Lower Mainland orphan dikes, including the Surrey diking district;*
- b) Board Chair send an advocacy letter on behalf of the MVRD requesting that the province assume responsibility for orphan dikes, as described in the report dated April 22, 2026, titled "Orphan Dike Advocacy Letter to the Province", and*
- c) direct staff to forward a copy of the report dated April 22, 2026, titled "Orphan Dike Advocacy Letter to the Province" to member jurisdiction staff.*

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) has sent a request to all regional districts to sign an advocacy letter asking the Province to assume responsibility for orphan dikes and establish a provincial management program. The MVRD has given its support for this advocacy letter and is sharing the RDOS request with member jurisdictions so that each council can consider also sending the letter.

In summary, the RDOS makes the case that the Province should assume responsibility for orphan dikes for the following reasons:

1. Public safety requires a single responsible authority *(for orphan dikes)*
2. Local governments & First Nations cannot shoulder the burden *(for capital costs and engineering expertise associated with the maintenance and upgrade of orphan dikes)*
3. These *(orphan dike)* structures are often on Crown land
4. Provincial risk assessment already identifies the threat *(to orphan dikes from structural deficiencies and natural hazards)*

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5. Coordinated provincial stewardship prevents future failures *(by establishing consistent standards and predictable funding and maintenance, which reduces long-term risks and costs)*. Please see the enclosed materials for more information.

The RDOS is coordinating local government advocacy to the Province on this topic. Therefore, if you have questions, please contact Jim Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer, RDOS by email at jzaffino@rdos.bc.ca or by phone at 250-490-4230.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Dobrovolsky', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerry W. Dobrovolsky, P.Eng., MBA
Commissioner/Chief Administrative Officer

JD/JC/mp

cc: Jim Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Heather McNell, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Policy and Planning, Metro Vancouver

Encl: [MVRD Board Report titled "Orphan Dike Advocacy Letter to the Province" dated April 22, 2026 \(pg. 180\)](#)

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