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Sent: April-23-10 1:39 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Cc: Penner.MLA, Barry LASS:EX; Slater.MLA, John LASS:EX; Fleming.MLA, Rob LASS:EX
Subject: Water Act Modernization

Categories: Green Category

The British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA) has reviewed the *Water Act* Modernization Discussion Paper, and several representatives have attended workshops. As a result of these exercises, and the Association's own research and interest in the protection of water resources in BC, we offer the following observations and recommendations:

1. We agree that the management of the province's water resources needs to be reviewed, and that modernizing the legislation makes sense. The *Water Act* is outdated, as well as its various pieces of related legislation. The result is a confusing mishmash that is difficult for even the most informed to navigate, which makes effective management that much more difficult.
2. BCREA believes one provincial ministry should manage all aspects of water governance, and that standards should be enforced on a regional basis, rather than by municipality. This important resource requires a framework that allows all levels of government and the public to understand everyone's roles and responsibilities.
3. Another key aspect to an effective system is one in which standards are enforced consistently by all regions around the province.
4. Conservation is an essential element of water management, and BCREA is interested in working with the Ministry of Environment to increase awareness among consumers. Nearly 18,000 REALTORS® around the province have unique insights into their communities, and speak with tens of thousands of British Columbians every day.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process, and BCREA looks forward to the report resulting from this first round of consultations. If you would like to discuss any of our observations further, please contact BCREA Policy Analyst Norma Miller (604.742.2789, nmiller@bcrea.bc.ca) to schedule a meeting.

BCREA represents BC real estate boards and REALTORS® on all provincial issues, providing an extensive communications network, standard forms, economic research and analysis, government relations, applied practice courses and Continuing Professional Education. To demonstrate the profession's commitment to improving Quality of Life in BC communities, BCREA supports policies that encourage economic vitality, provide housing opportunities, respect the environment and build communities with good schools and safe neighbourhoods.

Sincerely,
John Tillie
President

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