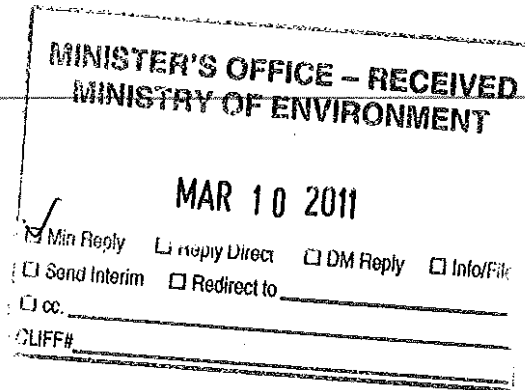


Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD



www.obwb.ca

21 February 2011

Honourable Murray Coell
Minister of Environment
PO Box 9047
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C., V8W 9E2

Re: Open and accountable governance of the Water Sustainability Act

Dear Honourable Murray Coell,

The OBWB believe that the Water Act requires modernization and we strongly support the Government of B.C. in developing a progressive vision identified in the December 2010 policy proposal and the earlier BC Living Water strategy. The OBWB is in strong support of the general direction that the Water Sustainability Act proposes. Early in the development process of the Water Sustainability Act, the OBWB identified the need to respond to drafted legislation. To that end, the OBWB requests and strongly encourages the Government of B.C. to provide an opportunity to comment and provide feedback on the draft Water Sustainability Act before it is introduced to the legislature.

We believe a review of drafted legislation will add tremendous value to the Water Sustainability Act, ensuring sober second thought from BC water professionals and members of the public alike. If opening the drafted legislation to a public review process is not possible, we would encourage the province to strike a panel consisting of water experts and other interested B.C. citizens to provide input into the drafting of the legislation, before it reaches the legislature.

The BC Water Act is one of the most important legislative frameworks that the B.C. Government provides to govern our water resources. The Act has the potential to set a course that will impact water resources today and for future generations. We strongly encourage the BC Government to implement a review process that acknowledges the need to get this piece of legislation right – even if the process takes longer.

Sincerely,

Stu Wells, Chair
Okanagan Basin Water Board

Cc: John Slater, MLA
Norm Letnick, MLA
Eric Foster, MLA
Bill Barisoff, MLA
Ben Stewart, MLA
Steve Thomson, MLA
Chief Stewart Phillip, Chairman, Okanagan Nation Alliance
Pauline Terbasket, Executive Director, Okanagan Nation Alliance
Herman Halvorson, Chair, Regional District of North Okanagan
Robert Hobson, Chair, Regional District of Central Okanagan
Dan Ashton, Chair, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Okanagan Mayors