

05 October 2020

Prince George City Council  
1100 Patricia Blvd., Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

Dear Prince George City Council,

**RE: Rezoning gravel pit near the intersection of Foothills Boulevard and North Nechako Road**

I have reviewed the map prepared by L&M Engineering, showing the plan for a proposed neighbourhood on the site of a gravel pit near the intersection of Foothills Boulevard and North Nechako Road. I have some comments about the plan for the City Council to consider before approving the rezoning application. My comments are:

**1. Retain and enhance the greenbelt along Foothills Boulevard**

The existing forest along Foothills Boulevard should be retained and enhanced. A greenbelt along Foothills Boulevard is necessary for the visual appearance of the site from both Foothills and from the new homes. It will dampen traffic noise and provide greenspace for plants and animals. This is a win-win for the developer and the community: the developer gets houses that have appealing views and the community will benefit from the ecosystem services provided by the greenbelt.

**2. Increase the size of the greenbelt along the top bank of the Nechako River and the park adjacent to Edgewood subdivision**

The size of the proposed greenbelt along the top bank of the Nechako River, 30 meters, and the size of the proposed park adjacent to Edgewood Elementary school and the North Nechako baseball diamonds are grossly inadequate. The proposed plan goes well beyond the current footprint of the gravel pit into existing forest cover. At the minimum, all forest cover along the top bank of the Nechako River, including the area adjacent to Riverside Park should be retained. This is a modest request as it is the only forest cover on the site. I recommend that the width of the greenbelt along the top bank of the Nechako River be expanded to a minimum of 60 meters to protect the riparian zone and lessen the impact of human activities on the river (e.g. runoff from houses, driveways, etc.).

**3. Use outdoor lighting to protect wildlife and the environment.**

The site is located in a 'dark-sky' zone adjacent to the Nechako River and all efforts are needed to avoid the negative impacts of artificial lights on the night time activities of several species of wildlife, such as birds and amphibians that hunt at night. A wider greenbelt along the top bank of the Nechako River and low-impact lighting are needed.

My comments are intended to help inform the development of new subdivisions, such as the one in question, in ways that better support the integrity of the natural environment and the livability of the neighbourhood. My comments are consistent with the *Prince George Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation plans* that call for the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment as ways to lessen our impact on the climate.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tristan Pearce

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