

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Flood mapping for Chemainus watershed underway to manage future flooding

Chemainus, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), in partnership with Municipality of North Cowichan, Halalt First Nation, and Penelakut Tribe, is developing flood maps for the Lower Chemainus Watershed.

The flood mapping project will help the CVRD and its partners better understand watershed processes and identify potential options to help manage future flooding in our communities.

“The lower Chemainus River is a floodplain, and historic flooding events in both 2020 and 2021 had significant impacts on our communities, impacting our infrastructure, properties, and businesses,” said Kate Miller, Manager of Environmental Services for the CVRD. “Mapping the floodplain is the first phase to provide a complete picture of flooding and erosion, anticipating the effects of climate change in the future. Once complete, we can plan solutions to protect our communities while also protecting our environment.”

The CVRD is welcoming community members to learn more about the project by attending a community information meeting on Wednesday, July 20 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Crofton Community Centre, located at 8104 Musgrave (across from the Fire Hall). The drop-in event will introduce the process, preliminary flood maps for the lower Chemainus watershed, and early ideas for flood mitigation planning. Community members will have an opportunity to talk to CVRD staff and the project team.

“Flood management planning is a long-term process that involves our community members and understanding what’s most important to them as we develop and evaluate options to reduce future risk,” said Miller. “We are interested in hearing the experiences and ideas community members have about flooding and erosion to help us identify potential future projects and secure funding for implementation in the coming years.”

For more information about the project visit www.planyourcowichan.ca/flood-mapping. For those who are unable to attend the community event, an online comment form is available until August 2 to share comments and questions. Funding for this project is from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia through the National Disaster Mitigation Program, with additional funding from the CVRD and Municipality of North Cowichan.

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