

KAMLOOPS GROUNDWATER PROJECT (THE 'PROJECT')

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to section 17 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* S.B.C. 2002, c. 43 (the 'Act'), the Executive Director of the Environmental Assessment Office (the 'EAO') provides the following recommendations and reasons relating to the Project. In preparing this document, the following has been considered:

- CEA Comprehensive Study Report and BCEAA Application for Project Approval for a Groundwater Collector Well and Ancillary Facilities, McArthur Island (the 'Application') submitted by the City of Kamloops (the 'City'); and;
- Kamloops Groundwater Project Assessment Report (the 'Assessment Report').

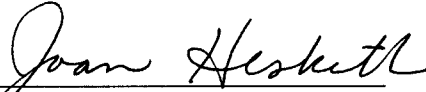
The Executive Director recommends that an environmental assessment (EA) certificate for the Project be issued for the following reasons:

1. The assessment addressed the effects identified in the section 11 order issued for the Project, including the potential effects on hydrogeology, water quality, wildlife, vegetation, social, economic, health and heritage values.
2. No substantial public issues were raised during the review. The EAO established a thirty day public comment period on the Application. During the comment period the EAO received seven submissions from the public. Two of the submissions were in support of the Project and concerns raised in the other submissions were largely regarding the quality of water in the aquifer. The City's commitment to prepare a well head protection plan addresses the issues raised by the public.
3. The EAO met with representatives of the Kamloops Indian Band (KIB) to hear their views about the Project and invited the KIB to participate in the assessment in the following ways:
 - providing the KIB with Project documentation including the City's Application;
 - inviting the KIB to participate on all committees established to review the Project and the Application; and
 - providing the KIB with an opportunity to comment on the City's Application.

To address issues raised by the Band, commitments have been made to monitor construction activities to avoid impacts on archaeological resources, to avoid certain construction activities during wildlife nesting periods, and to develop a well head protection plan.

4. All potential significant adverse effects of the Project are considered to be manageable to an acceptable level through:
 - the implementation of commitments and mitigation measures identified in the Application and conditions of the EA certificate; and
 - compliance with subsequent statutory permits, licences and approvals, or any authority required under any other enactment.

5. Issues identified by the public, the KIB and provincial and federal government agencies, that fall within the purview of the EA, have been considered, and the Assessment Report identifies these issues and documents practical means to prevent or reduce to an acceptable level any potentially significant adverse effects.



Joan Heskeith
Executive Director and Deputy Minister
Environmental Assessment Office

Dated: March 12, 2004