

Received via email: February 19, 2018

272833 – Roberts Bank Terminal 2

Dear Mr. Burger:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed transfer of Crown land at Roberts Bank from the provincial government to the federal government. I am sorry it has taken me so long to respond.

I can assure you that the proposed development of the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2) project is required to comply with the stringent environmental and agricultural land assessment processes that are in place. As you know, a federally-appointed independent panel has begun the environmental review of the Port of Vancouver's application. The proposed project will not proceed until the federal and provincial environmental review process is complete and, should it be approved, until the Port of Vancouver (POV) meets every condition issued by the environmental offices.

The provincial government remains confident that the federal panel is undertaking a robust and effective environmental assessment, which includes broad public participation. The provincial government's Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) is also involved and will coordinate its assessment and consultation with the federal process, which is being led by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA). The CEAA has delegated certain responsibility for First Nation consultation to the POV, as the proponent for RBT2 project. The provincial government will rely on the CEAA's work and will ensure that any additional information the Province may require for its assessment is obtained in advance of the referral of the project to provincial ministers.

It is important to note that the transfer of administration and control of land from the provincial government to the federal Crown does not pave the way for a change of land use. This transfer is only an exchange of lands. The provincial government requires land which is currently held by the Government of Canada for a series of road improvements that will address congestion and improve safety in Delta's Sunbury/Nordel area. The Delta roads project partnership and agreement signed in August 2016 between the federal government, POV and the Tsawwassen First Nation was designed to provide funding for the project, which is locked in, regardless if the proposed RBT2 project proceeds or not. The agreement does not in any way prejudice or presuppose any approval and business case for the RBT2 project.

This interchange and roads project in Delta is badly needed for the Sunbury/Nordel area to resolve current and expected future congestion issues that affect community liveability. This project will also result in better design and roads that will contribute to driver safety. With these improvements, residents and local businesses will be better connected to their communities, both socially and economically.

Any concerns with respect to the POV's potential change of land use for the proposed RBT2 development are captured separately in the CEAA review process. Information about the CEAA review process is available at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=80054 You may wish to contact the POV and the federal government to find out more about the Port's plans to mitigate environmental impacts associated with this proposed work.

I hope you find this information helpful. Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Trevena
Minister

Copy to: Premier John Horgan

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment
MLA, Vancouver-Fairview

Andrew Weaver, MLA
Oak Bay-Gordon Head