20 July 2020

RE: BC Nature Supporting Staff Report on RBT2

Dear Mayor and Council,

BC Nature (the Federation of BC Naturalists), represents more than 50 naturalists’ clubs and 6000 members province-wide including the local Delta Naturalists Society. Our membership consists of dedicated naturalists, including scientists, who are connected to, have expertise in, and have concern for the preservation of British Columbia’s landscapes and the diversity of organisms inhabiting them. We support any effort to promote the integrity of our natural ecosystems, not only to protect their biodiversity, but also to protect our lives and the lives of future generations in British Columbia.

Based on this engagement in communities along the Fraser River Estuary and out into the Salish Sea and an understanding of the ecological importance of the estuary BC Nature expresses its support for the recommendations contained within staff report July 15, 2020 F.10 Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project Federal Review Panel Report. BC Nature and conservation partners are delivering a similar recommendation to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada as well as local Members of Parliament that the Federal government reject RBT2 and re-establish the Fraser River Estuary Management Plan.

Through the years the City of Delta has been a leader in helping protect the habitats of the Fraser River Estuary. Previous councils have led through supporting international designations for the estuary such as the expansion of the Ramsar designation and supporting the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network designation. The city was vital to the protection of Burns Bog and most recently has implemented a Bird and Biodiversity strategy acknowledging the unique and globally important role the lands of South Delta play in maintaining international bird populations.

The recommendations within the July 15, 2020 F.10 report are consistent with Delta’s leadership in protecting the Fraser River Estuary. BC Nature thanks city staff for their ongoing work to maintain the ecological integrity of the Fraser River Estuary and encourages Mayor and Council to approve the report.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Crosby
President, BC Nature