

Frequently Asked Questions

1) When do I need a fill permit?

- A) Fill permits are required if filling over 50 cubic meters (~7-8 truck loads) of fill (outside of the ALR). Filling within 15m of Top of Bank of any watercourse will require the approval of senior agencies.

There may be additional fill permit requirements (for any quantity) within the Agricultural Land Reserve, which need to be addressed first. Refer to the Provincial Land Reserve Commission handouts (The project may qualify for an exemption, or may require a ‘Notification’ or a full ‘Application’ to the Provincial Commission) followed by a Permit or review by the District.

2) Do I need a tree Cutting Permit?

- A) **Refer to:** the Tree Protection Bylaw – Summary Sheet (1 Page)

3) Is there a creek on my property and what is the required setback?

- A) **Refer to:** Schedule E of the OCP or provide a Subject Map showing: Watercourse, lot lines, contours and aerial photo. Schedule E is not absolute but is generally accurate to within a couple of meters and is subject to ground truthing; Note: Schedule E is currently being revised in Phases using accurate GPS mapping and will be subject to further revision during 2003.

Watercourses, by definition of all agencies, includes the ‘riparian vegetation’ up to and beyond the ‘Top of Bank’ which is defined by the Provincial Streamside Protection Regulations. Watercourses are broadly defined by all agencies and can include roadside and manmade ditches.

The Provincial Streamside Protection Regulations should also be referred to for setback information.

4) What are Agency requirements concerning works 'in and around a watercourse'? ie. culvert installation, bank stabilization, vegetation removal

- A) Approvals (or Notification) are required from the Provincial and/or the Federal government; and possibly the District.

Refer to: the list of Provincial and Federal Web sites regarding the appropriate Guidelines and application forms. Sensitive work around watercourses must generally be done within the summer 'Fisheries Window' (August 1st to September 15th of each year).

5) What do I do about a 'Hazardous Tree'?

A) Refer to:

- District's Tree Protection Bylaw Sections: Definitions, 6(e,f), 8(m) 9(f), 10, and 11;
- Provincial handouts: "Dealing with Hazard Trees" (for trees within 15m of 'Top of Bank'
"Hazard Trees near Watercourses in Urban Areas"
- Lists of Arborists

- Notes:
- The BC Wildlife Act prohibits the removal of any tree actively used by birds for nesting and may protect some nests in perpetuity – refer to BC Information Bulletin, "Protection of Birds in B.C."
 - When Hazard trees, as designated by an Arborist, are cut within Watercourse Protection Areas, they may be left in the Watercourse Protection Areas without replacement.
 - Hazardous Trees on District property will be assessed and managed by the District's Operations department