



Alberni-Clayoquot
Regional District

MEDIA RELEASE

SOMASS WATERSHED
FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Kicks Off Flood Management Plan Study will help region plan for future flood mitigation

(Port Alberni, BC, February 7, 2019) – The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) is preparing for a more climate-resilient future by undertaking the *Somass Watershed Flood Management Plan*. The plan will update flood mapping for portions of the Somass Watershed, a 1,426 km² basin that drains into the Alberni Inlet. The Study will provide a more complete picture about how the watershed's river system works and more clarity about flood-prone areas and potential impacts.

The plan will help the ACRD plan for emergencies, mitigate flooding issues, protect the environment, and provide the region with better planning tools in the face of climate change. Heavy rains and flooding in recent years have contributed to evacuations, public and private property impacts, and safety concerns in low-lying areas of the region.

Over the next year, ACRD will be working with Northwest Hydraulic Consultants to undertake river surveying, flood level monitoring, hydrology analysis, geomorphic investigations, and modeling to update flood mapping and create a framework for future flood risk mitigation and planning. Outcomes of the mapping and preliminary mitigation options will be shared with the public during a public consultation process in early 2020.

During the analysis, ACRD will be engaging with First Nations; the City of Port Alberni; provincial, and federal government agencies; NGOs; industry partners; and local neighbourhood associations to gain insights about local observations, key concerns, and potential priority areas for mitigation.

Interested members of the public can visit www.acrd.bc.ca/somass-flood to learn more about the project and obtain updates as it proceeds. Questions or comments about the project can be submitted at any time by emailing planning@acrd.bc.ca or contacting the ACRD Planning Department at 250-720-2700.

The project area includes portions of shoreline along Great Central and Sproat Lakes; the lower Sproat River, the lower Stamp River, and the Somass River; the Somass River estuary; and northern portions of the Alberni Inlet.

Funding for the project is from the Federal Government and the Province of British Columbia through the National Disaster Mitigation Program.

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