



Alberni-Clayoquot
Regional District

MEDIA RELEASE

SOMASS WATERSHED
FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Sharing Somass Watershed Draft Flood Mapping Results

Public Information Session March 10

(Port Alberni, BC, February 26, 2020) – The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) will be holding a public event to share the results of updated flood mapping for portions of the Somass Watershed. This work is an important first step in watershed management planning and provides a more complete picture of the lakes, rivers, and coast in the Somass watershed. This information will help communities in the watershed take a collaborative and informed approach to identifying and evaluating options to reduce future risks.

ACRD General Manager of Planning and Development, Mike Irg said, “Flood mitigation planning is a collaborative, long-term process that helps us be prepared for flood events. Creating updated flood mapping positions communities in the watershed to work together to identify potential projects, secure funding, and prepare our communities for the future.”

Through 2019, the District has been working with Northwest Hydraulic Consultants to undertake river surveying, flood level monitoring, hydrology analysis, geomorphic investigations, and hydraulic modeling to update flood mapping. In March the community will be invited to learn more about the flood mapping process and results and talk about next steps. The public event will be held on Tuesday, March 10 at the Tseshah Administration Building. Drop-in hours will be from 6:30 to 9:00 pm with a formal presentation given at 7:00 pm.

After public feedback has been received, the ACRD will share a summary of input and finalized flood mapping and reporting. Mike Irg says that “The updated mapping will help communities in the Somass watershed plan for emergencies, mitigate existing and future flood risks, protect the environment, and provide the region with better planning tools in the face of climate change.”

Interested members of the public can visit www.acrd.bc.ca/somass-flood to learn more about the project. 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.

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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