



## **MEDIA UPDATE**

### **Agricultural Land Commission Decision - City of Abbotsford Exclusion Application**

Burnaby, July 29, 2005 --- The Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) has completed its review of the City of Abbotsford's application which requested the exclusion of 372 ha (920 acres) from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

The City of Abbotsford applied to the Commission to exclude land located within the ALR to facilitate new job creation and economic growth. The application involved 117 land registry parcels in eight areas located in three main blocks. The three main blocks under application were north of the Abbotsford Airport between Mount Lehman, Marshall and Clearbrook Roads; west of Mount Lehman Road between the Auto Mall and Vanderpol Eggs and east of the University College of the Fraser Valley on the east side of Mackenzie Road.

During its review of the application, the Commission considered the request in the context of its mandate and the growth management challenges facing the City and the Fraser Valley Regional District. The Commission appreciated the many submissions it received from area residents and other interested parties. The Commission conditionally agreed to the exclusion of 178.5 ha, refused to exclude 121.5 ha and deferred the decision regarding a 72 ha area in the vicinity of Abbotsford International Airport.

Regarding the 178.5 ha approved for exclusion, the Commission recognized the City's expressed need referred to in the Regional Growth Strategy and the City in the Country Plan to identify land for future industrial and business park development purposes. In an attempt to provide a balanced response, the Commission determined that it was appropriate to meet some of the City's immediate land use needs by agreeing to portions of the less suitable lands in the application. The Commission held the view that the City and the Abbotsford Airport Authority be offered opportunities to meet with the Commission to discuss alternative ways to ensure that areas agreed to for exclusion can be used most efficiently and effectively for the intended purposes and to discuss alternative ways of accommodating any perceived shortfall in long term industrial land inventory.

Regarding the 121.5 ha area refused exclusion, the Commission found that these lands were suited to agricultural use due to the high agricultural land capability ratings, location within the ALR and existing levels of farm use.

Regarding the 72 ha deferred area, the Commission found this area to have good agricultural capability and that prior to entertaining this aspect of the application, it would be prudent to make its determination in the context of further discussion with the City and the Abbotsford Airport Authority and through reviewing a comprehensive plan for future airport development.

Approval is conditional upon the development and implementation of a buffering strategy and rezoning of the subject lands for the purpose intended in the application.

Further information about this application is available through the Application Status page on the Commission's website ([click here](#)).

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