



Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR)

No.: INFO-19
Date: 2006-07-18
Revised: 2007-11-09

Purpose

To inform proponents about the Provincial *Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR)* and to provide guidance on requirements.

About the RAR

- The *Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR)* is in effect as of March 31, 2006.
- The purpose of the Regulation is to provide protection for riparian features, functions and conditions that are vital for healthy water resource systems.
- Riparian areas, those areas adjacent to watercourses, lakes and wetlands, provide crucial functions (e.g. moderate water temperatures, provide nutrients, and filter pollutants). Protecting these functions is critical in Richmond as all of Richmond's watercourses eventually enter the Fraser River, one of Canada's largest salmon producing rivers.
- Under Provincial law, affected local governments are prohibited from issuing approvals or permits which do not protect riparian areas in accordance with the *RAR*.

The RAR in Richmond

- On March 27, 2006 Richmond City Council adopted the City's *RAR* Response Strategy.
- The City's strategy identified Riparian Management Areas (RMA) where activities, as identified in the *RAR* (Table 1), are not permitted to occur.
- If a proponent is seeking permits or approvals from the City (e.g. development permits, rezoning, subdivision, building permits, etc.) for a property that is wholly or partially within a RMA the proponent must demonstrate that the proposed development activity meets the City's *RAR* Response Strategy. This means that the proposed activity is:
 1. an exempt *RAR* activity; or,
 2. not within the property's identified RMA.
- The City's GIS inquiry provides an approximation of the extent of a Riparian Management Area. It is the responsibility of the applicant to conduct a survey, following the methodologies outlined in the *RAR*, to establish the actual extent of the RMA on site and to provide this information to the City.

Table 1. RAR applicable and exempt activities.

<i>RAR Applicable Activities</i>	<i>RAR Exempt Activities</i>
<p>The <i>RAR</i> applies to residential, commercial or industrial activities within a designated RMA, eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction of buildings and structures (including residential buildings on farmland) • creation of non-structural impervious or semi-impervious surfaces (e.g. parking lots, patios) • removal, alteration, destruction of vegetation • disturbance of soils • development of recreational amenities • development of new services 	<p>The <i>RAR</i> does not apply to the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development not within a RMA • farming activities or institutional development • existing permanent structures, roads and other development; • reconstruction or repair of permanent structure within its existing foundation • developments that have been approved but not yet built (requests for changes would however, trigger a review with reference to the <i>RAR</i>)

Riparian Management Areas



- Legend**
- Watercourses**
- 15m Riparian Management Area
 - 5m Riparian Management Area
 - Exempt from RAR
 - Fraser River
 - FREMP Review
 - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
 - Agricultural Land Reserve

Note: Management areas are measured from high water mark.

Map Creation Date: March 1, 2006
 Map Created By: Serene Pang

Note: The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources and is not intended to be used as a substitute for professional advice. Use at your own risk. This is NOT a legal document, and is published for information only. It is not intended to be used as a legal document. All rights reserved. Not to be reproduced without the written permission of the City of Richmond.

