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Climate Action Program/Climate Action Adaptation

The Honourable Catherine McKenna  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Dear Minister Catherine McKenna:

**RE: UPDATE OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA'S INTENSITY-DURATION-FREQUENCY  
CURVES FOR THE CAPITAL REGION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is requesting that Environment Canada update its published rainfall data and associated rainfall Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) curves for the capital region of British Columbia. We understand that Environment Canada is currently reviewing this task, based on regional requests.

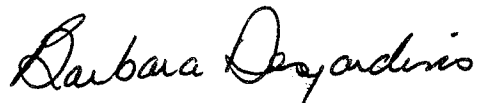
The CRD noted that the Environment Canada rainfall data used to build IDF curves are outdated, with data coming from the 1960s through 1990s. By using more recent rainfall data, Environment Canada will be able to better represent our current regional conditions. This will enable the regional and local governments to produce more effective climate adaptation plans.

The CRD Board has recognized climate action as a strategic priority. The region's municipalities and the CRD have signed on to the BC Climate Action Charter. In addition, the CRD established a Climate Action Service to support corporate, municipal, electoral area and public initiatives, to fulfill our provincial climate commitments and to incorporate a climate lens for our major capital projects and all service delivery.

As an example, rainfall IDF curves provide local government engineers and other end-users with information such as the maximum amount of rainfall that can be expected locally in a "1-in-5-year" or a "1-in-100-year" event. This information is critical for the design, sizing and management of rainwater infrastructure (e.g., stormwater drains, curb sizes, gutter requirements). IDF curve data are also used to inform flood, emergency response and other climate adaptation-related plans. Updated Environment Canada data and IDF curves will benefit other public services, as well, including integrated watershed protection, parks, drinking water and wastewater systems.

The CRD appreciates the Government of Canada's commitment to climate action and looks forward to engaging Environment Canada on this specific matter.

Sincerely,



Barbara Desjardins  
Chair  
Capital Regional District Board

NE:cam

cc: Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD  
Larisa Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services, CRD  
Glenn Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection, CRD