



FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

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November 15, 2007

File No.: 0410-20-031

Honourable Pat Bell
Minister of Agriculture and Lands
P.O. Box 9043 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Dear Honourable Minister:

Re: FVRD Audible Bird Scare Devices

Thank you for your commitment to address issues surrounding audible bird scare devices for the protection of agricultural crops, especially blueberries. As you are aware the issue of propane cannons as a bird scare device has become a serious issue in the FVRD. At the September Regional Board meeting a resolution was passed stating:

THAT the FVRD Board recommends that the Provincial Government phase out all audible bird scare devices within the FVRD as soon as possible. In addition, in the interest of the community and the economy within the FVRD, the Board wishes to continue to pursue with the identified partners of the Ministry of Agriculture, BC Blueberry Council, and the University College of the Fraser Valley, a multi-faceted study to investigate alternate forms of bird control devices for blueberry and other crops; **AND THAT** the member municipal councils within the FVRD be requested to consider and support these recommendations.

[BD 2007-417]

Prior to the Regional Board meeting, staff at the FVRD meet with Bert Van Daltsen from your Ministry and felt that in order to fully address the impact of audible bird scare devices a multi faceted approach must be applied. The scientific approach will address the best management practices and the efficiencies related to the various bird scare devices including blueberry canons. The social component of the study will review the impacts the various techniques have on the surrounding community. Finally, it is critical that the study recommends solutions to provide future guidance and direction to industry groups and local governments.

As a result of the Regional Board's resolution, there is a desire to continue to work with your Ministry, the BC Blueberry Council, and the University College of the Fraser Valley to conduct a multi-faceted study of alternate forms to the blueberry canon of bird control devices for blueberry. Due to this shift in focus of the proposed study, we are seeking your Ministries continued support in moving this issue forward.

If you have any questions please contact Siri Bertelsen, Manager of Regional Planning either by telephone at (604) 702-5008 or by email at sbertelsen@fvrd.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Clint Hames
Chair, Fraser Valley Regional District Board of Directors

cc: Dick Bogstie, Chair of the Electoral Area Services Committee and Director, Electoral Area "F"
Lloyd McKimmon, Director, Electoral Area "G"