



## Sand and Gravel Extraction

### Mine Permitting

There are generally two different groups of mine permits in B.C: major mines and regional permits.

Proposed major mines, major expansions or upgrades to existing mines, and some large-scale exploration or development projects require approval under the *Mines Act*.

Major mines and expansions (including large-scale industrial mineral and aggregate mines) in BC typically require environmental assessment certificates.

Regional permitting applications for mineral and coal exploration activities, placer mines, smaller-scale industrial minerals mines, and aggregate pits/quarries are made online through FrontCounter BC. These applications are forwarded to the local governing authority to ensure the proposal meets local government requirements and policies.

### What is the Role of the Regional District?

Staff are often contacted to discuss requests to permit the extraction of sand and/or gravel in the Regional Districts Electoral Areas.

#### The Regional District:

- Is the local liaison for applications to the Province
- Provides assistance to the public in reviewing Regional District requirements including policies and regulations which may affect the application
- Provides information on application processing

### How do Regional District Policies Affect an Application?

The Regional District reviews applications through the lens of regulations, policies, as well as local issues such as environmental quality, neighbourhood characteristics, transportation and access.

The following documents are considered when reviewing applications for sand and/or gravel extraction:

- Zoning Bylaw
- Official Community Plans (OCP's)
- Joe Rich Rural Land Use Bylaw (RLUB)
- Regional District Aggregate Supply and Demand Update and Analysis

The preservation of water quality and the integrity of water reservoirs are of particular concern. The Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), Regional Growth Strategy, and other policy documents are also considered. Where permanent buildings or processing activities are being proposed in addition to the extraction, the Regional District may require a rezoning application be completed. A rezoning application cannot be required where only extraction is proposed.

## The Aggregate Supply and Demand Update and Analysis

Effective management of the aggregate resource represents a considerable challenge to both planners and the industry.

A template for a Site Suitability Assessment (SSA) was prepared in order to achieve consistency with the referral process that takes into consideration potential impacts to the local community and environment. The SSA is used as a checklist by local governments to assess aggregate proposals.

## How does FrontCounter BC Review Applications?

FrontCounter BC refers applications to the Regional District and other agencies. The Regional District responds with comments and recommendations.

## Public Input

The Regional District has three (3) advisory groups, which provide comments on various applications. These comments are considered when making a decision by the Regional Board.

Members of an advisory group are appointed by the Regional Board based on their background of civic activity, interest or expertise.

Applications may be referred to one or more of the following advisory groups:

- Advisory Planning Commission
- Agricultural Advisory Commission
- Environmental Advisory Commission

## How are Applications Made?

Applications and inquiries about the extraction of sand and/or gravel within the Regional District of Central Okanagan can be made to:

FrontCounter BC  
Phone 1-877-855-3222  
[FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca)  
[www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca)

## Application Costs

The cost of an application can vary depending upon the complexity of the application. Typical costs are:

- FrontCounter BC application fee(s)
- Any documents/plans necessary to complete application requirements such as an agrologist report, water study, etc.
- Public notification (as required by the Province)

## Gravel Extraction Referral Process

