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**Date:** 5/12/2018 10:18:26 AM  
**Subject:** Freshet flooding risk - Fraser River

Good morning Mayor and Council,

As you are aware, parts of British Columbia are currently experiencing significant freshet flooding. While we haven't had flooding in the lower mainland yet, flows along the lower Fraser are expected to increase significantly over the next week. A number of local government EOCs have activated to prepare, especially in the Fraser Valley, and the SW PREOC (provincial regional EOC) in Surrey has also activated to support.

The River Forecast Centre is indicating flows could be as high as in 1948 which caused extensive flooding in parts of the lower mainland. The actual water levels will depend in part on the weather over the next week. It is unseasonably warm and freezing levels are high which can result in additional snow melt in the alpine, so there is potential for a serious flooding event in the Lower Mainland.

**Potential impacts to Vancouver:**

While water levels in the Fraser River along the south side of the city are predominantly governed by the ocean (tide levels), we are working with partners to determine if a freshet of the magnitude forecast could impact low-lying parts of Vancouver along the Fraser.

Note that there is a mix of residential land, industry, and City critical infrastructure (e.g. Kent and Manitoba yards) that could be impacted, as well as other infrastructure.

Even if there is no direct flooding in Vancouver, the City and its residents/business could still be impacted if there is extensive flooding elsewhere. The potentially affected areas and critical infrastructure impacts are being assessed by the SW PREOC.

The City may also be asked to provide assistance to those impacted elsewhere.

**Vancouver's Response:**

Vancouver EM has been working with a number of departments and agencies to support assessing the risk, including SW PREOC (EMBC), Engineering, and Sustainability. We have also been participating in the regional coordination calls with EMBC and the provincial River Forecast Centre and other partners. We will be activating the Vancouver EOC to a Level 1 on Monday (during the workday) to further assess the risk to Vancouver. EOC Level 1 is the lowest-level activation, primarily to support consolidation of situational reporting. In this case, we will also be conducting risk assessment activities and coordinating any resource requests that come from the province or other local authorities.

We will provide you with ongoing updates on this situation over the coming days. If you have any immediate questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Chief Reid.

Best,  
Paul