SOUTH DIKE UPGRADES — WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

6080 DYKE ROAD TO GILBERT ROAD







EXISTING SOUTH DIKE DURING FLOOD EVENT

CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOODING

Along with a changing climate, the flood hazards in Richmond are also changing. Sea level is rising with global warming and the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events is increasing. Individually and together, these climate events are increasing Richmond's exposure to coastal, river, and rainfall flood hazards.

SEA LEVEL RISE

With climate change, warmer temperatures melt glaciers and ice caps, and increase the temperature of the ocean, which causes the water to expand. As a result, global sea levels are rising. Sea level rise increases flood risks posed by king tides and coastal storm surges.

The Province of British Columbia advises municipalities to plan for 1 metre of sea level rise by 2100. During this same period, land in Richmond is expected to subside by 0.2 metre.

INCREASED RAINFALL

Over the past 20 years, the average intensity of rainfall events in Richmond has increased by approximately 15 per cent. With the changing climate, this trend is expected to continue. Powerful rainfall events intensify coastal storm surges and river flood hazards due to the increased river flow.

The atmospheric river events that hit the Lower Mainland in November 2021 are examples of extreme rainfall events that can lead to flooding. While Richmond did not experience the same level of rainfall or flooding as some areas of the Fraser Valley, it did receive over 130 millimetres of rain during a three-day period, which is the biggest storm Richmond has faced in half a century.

To provide your input on the South Dike Upgrades project and complete the survey, please scan the QR code or visit LetsTalkRichmond.ca.

Richmond