



Agricultural Land Commission
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June 23, 2008

Reply to the attention of Ron Wallace
ALC File: MM-37922

Carey Prinse
48445 McGuire Road
Chilliwack, BC V4Z1C7

Dear Madam:

Re: Application to Subdivide land in the Agricultural Land Reserve

Please find attached the Minutes of Resolution # 296/2008 outlining the Commission's decision as it relates to the above noted application. As agent, it is your responsibility to notify your client accordingly.

Yours truly,

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION

Per:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Karlsen', is written over a horizontal line.

Erik Karlsen, Chair

cc: City of Chilliwack (ALR00184)

Enclosure: Minutes

Discussion

The Commissioners reviewed the application in terms of the policy which states:

- a. no one has an automatic right to a “homesite severance”,
- b. the Commission shall be the final arbiter as to whether a particular “homesite severance” meets good land use criteria; (see * below)
- c. a prime concern of the Commission will always be to ensure that the “remainder” will constitute a suitable agricultural parcel.

* There will be cases where the Commission considers that good land use criteria rule out any subdivision of the land because subdivision would compromise the agricultural integrity of the area, and the Commission must therefore exercise its discretion to refuse the “homesite severance”.

The Commission felt the creation of a new residential lot would reduce the agricultural potential of the property and therefore did not support the application.

Assessment of Agricultural Capability

In assessing agricultural capability, the Commission refers in part to agricultural capability mapping and ratings. The ratings are interpreted using the Canada Land Inventory (CLI), ‘Soil Capability Classification for Agriculture’ system, or the BC Land Inventory (BCLI), ‘Land Capability Classification for Agriculture in B.C.’ system.

The agricultural capability of the soil of the subject property is

Class 2 – Land in this class has minor limitations that require good ongoing management practices or slightly restrict the range of crops, or both.

Class 3 – Land in this class has limitations that require moderately intensive management practices or moderately restrict the range of crops, or both.

Subclasses

- D undesirable soil structure
- T topography
- W excess water

Assessment of Agricultural Suitability

The Commission assessed whether the external factors such as encroaching non-farm development have caused or will cause the land to become unsuitable for agriculture. The Commission does not believe there are external factors that render the land unsuitable for agricultural use.

Assessment of Impact on Agriculture

The Commission also assessed the impact of the proposal against the long term goal of preserving agricultural land. It was noted that a previous application was made in 1993 in which the Commission of the day approved subdivision under the conditions of the homesite severance policy for a 0.35 ha lot in the southeast corner of the property. However, this subdivision was never completed.

The Commission was not prepared to support the current proposal as it felt the subdivision of a 0.2 ha lot from the eastern side of the property along Banford Road would reduce the agricultural potential of the property.

Conclusions

1. That the land under application has agricultural capability and is appropriately designated as ALR.
2. That the land under application is suitable for agricultural use.
3. That the proposal will impact agriculture.
4. That the proposal is inconsistent with the objective of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* to preserve agricultural land.

IT WAS

MOVED BY: Commissioner Bose
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Tomlinson

THAT the application be refused.

CARRIED

Resolution # 296/2008