

# Project Completion Memo

<b>TO:</b>	City of Merritt- Flood Mitigation	<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	December 9, 2025
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Claybanks Dike and RV Park	<b>SITE MANAGER:</b>	Pat Griffiths
<b>LOCATION:</b>	1302 Voght St, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8	<b>WORKFORCE:</b>	2-6

## 1. Project Overview

**1.1 Purpose:** In response to flooding in the Coldwater River during the Atmospheric River Event in 2021, the City of Merritt has constructed approximately 182 meters of dike within Claybanks RV Park. The work generally consisted of earthworks to shape and construct the dike from imported materials. Riprap erosion protection was placed on the river side of the dike to protect it from future floodwaters in the Coldwater River. The landside portion of the dike consists of a combination of earthen berm and lock block retaining wall with safety fence, and a walking/running gravel surface is proposed along the top of the dike. The dike was hand seeded, and additional plantings were installed as part of the restoration efforts to enhance the riparian area. Native plantings and seed mixes were selected for areas near to the Coldwater river, and along the river side slopes of the constructed dike.

To facilitate the dike construction, water, sanitary, and electrical services were removed within Claybanks RV Park. New sanitary, water and electrical services were constructed to replace services lost. This included a watermain loop with blow-off valves, a sanitary sewer main with service line, and relocation of the electrical cabinets, services, and light posts.

Further, restoration works were undertaken at the south extent of Gracia Street. This involved import and grading of additional gravel, and installation of a temporary catchbasin.

The Claybanks Dike and RV Park project was officially kicked off on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 with work starting on site the week of July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Substantial Completion was achieved and confirmed on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## 2. Environmental and Cultural Considerations

**Environmental Impact and Mitigation:** Environmental impacts that were monitored and mitigated through construction generally consisted of fish salvage and isolation during in water works, nesting surveys, adjustments to working practices around resident yellow-bellied marmots.

**2.1 In-stream Works:** The dike was designed and constructed such that in stream work was minimized, however not avoided completely. The following is a summary of the actions taken when working within the wetting width of the Coldwater River:

- In-stream isolation – The worksite was isolated from the flowing watercourse with the use of sandbag, and impermeable membrane. The intent is to keep all sediment/turbidity produced by the works within the isolation limits. The environmental monitor was responsible for monitoring turbidity levels within the construction site, upstream and downstream of the site, and to notify the contractor of any turbidity leaks in the isolation measure.
- Fish salvage – after isolation measures are in place, and electrofishing fish salvage operation was undertaken. The intent of this exercise is to safely remove all fish from within the isolation limits.

**Nesting Surveys:** During initial site visits, some hollows stick nests were observed in the existing cottonwoods stand adjacent to the project site. Nesting surveys were performed to confirm that no birds were actively nesting in these trees prior to hazard trees being cut down.

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**Yellow Bellied Marmots:** Marmots were observed on site throughout construction. It was determined by the QEP that trapping and removing the marmots would not likely keep them out of the project site. It was recommended that a slow-start method be implemented when excavating and placing rip rap. This involved rattling the excavator bucket next to any rocks to be moved to scare away any marmots. These methods were observed to work well and were used throughout construction.

The environmental monitor, Bailey Environmental, was on site for all instream works, and surveys. They continued bi-weekly monitoring for the course of construction until works on the dike were complete.

**2.2 Cultural Monitor Reports:** The Nooaitch Indian Band was engaged as the cultural monitor for this project. The cultural monitor was on site for all instream works and for any works disturbing assumed virgin soil and was operating under chance find procedures. Daily reports were completed by the cultural monitor and nothing of archeological significance was uncovered during construction. It was determined that after in stream works were completed that existing soils on site were completely modified. The cultural monitor was to be called to site should unmodified soil layers be encountered during utility construction within the RV Park. Unmodified soils were not encountered, and the cultural monitor was not called to site during the utility works.

## 3. Reporting and Documentation

### 3.1

**Construction Progress Updates:** Indigenous Engagement Progress Memos were completed monthly. The consultant submitted weekly progress updates to the City of Merritt. Daily reports were completed by the contractor and field reporting was completed for the days that engineering staff were on site.

## 4. Project Photos- Attach photos of the completed project to showcase results.



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**5. Project Contacts:**

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**City of Merritt**  
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CA Signature	Name:	Date:
<b>CONTRACTOR DISTRIBUTION:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Engagement Manager (IEM)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal Files
<b>MERRITT FLOOD MITIGATION DISTRIBUTION:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Bands (IEM)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Website/Social Media (CE)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Engagement (CE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood Mitigation Files