November 14, 2020

To: The Honourable John Horganpremier@gov.bc.ca; Minister John Allan, FLNR FLNR:EX <FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Johnsrude, Allan N FLNR:EX <Allan.Johnsrude@gov.bc.ca>; Barrett, Scott FLNR:EX <Scott.Barrett@gov.bc.ca>; Dunkley, Jim R EMPR:EX <Jim.Dunkley@gov.bc.ca>; Malt, Joshua FLNR:EX <Joshua.Malt@gov.bc.ca>; Gillis, Joel FLNR:EX <Joel.Gillis@gov.bc.ca> Minister Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

RE: Mountainside Quarries Application (Mine 0700412) and critical nesting habitat

Nature Chilliwack is concerned about the approval of a mining proposal impacting the cliffs at Mountainside Quarries Group Incorporated (Quadling Quarries) located at 40251 Quadling Road in Abbotsford.  Mining activity at the site would impact several species that use the cliff habitat at the site.  The two species of concern are the Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus)* and the Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota).*

Peregrine falcons have been nesting at the site for many years.  This Peregrine nesting site has consistently produced up to a third of the young successfully reared in the Lower Mainland/South Coast population of Peregrine falcons.  ‘Peregrine falcons, their eggs and nest’ are protected under the BC Wildlife Act and Nature Chilliwack questions why a permit to destroy this habitat is even being considered.

In addition, Nature Chilliwack is concerned about the loss of the largest colony of Cliff swallow breeding habitat in our region at the site.  This migratory bird, whose nest and eggs are protected by the Migratory Bird Convention Act, is limited by suitable steep cliff habitat for their nesting sites in proximity to rich foraging habitats.  In BC, Cliff swallow numbers have dropped by 87.7% since 1970. Mining of the cliff habitat at this site will have a serious impact on this species in rapid decline.

Nature Chilliwack would ask that conservation efforts for these species emphasize protection of the cliff habitat to maintain Provincial and Federal commitments to protect the Peregrine falcon and the migratory Cliff swallow populations in our region from serious decline.

Respectfully,

Nature Chilliwack

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