March 1, 2022

Mayor and Council

Town of Osoyoos

Box 3010, 8707 Main Street

Osoyoos, BC V0H 1V0

Dear Mayor McKortoff and Esteemed Council Members,

This letter is to affirm the strong support of the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) and the Environmental and Climate Monitoring Section of the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society’s (OLWQS) request for moorage of their pontoon boat at the Desert Sunrise Marina and Boat Launch, which is owned and operated by the Town of Osoyoos.

The OLWQS was founded in 1991 by community members to promote public awareness of Osoyoos Lake and its health. Since that time the OLWQS has worked with both the ENV and the BC Lake Stewardship Society (BCLSS) as contributing members to the BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program (BCLSMP; see our website link in the footer of this page). The BCLSMP was created to support lake stewards and citizen science in gathering valuable information on lakes and lake health across the province. Without dedicated volunteers and stewards, this information gathering would not be possible. The OLWQS water monitoring activities have contributed important data to the program over the past 30 years, resulting in two data summary reports on the health of Osoyoos Lake which can be viewed in BCLSS’s online library ([www.bclss.org/document-library](http://www.bclss.org/document-library)).

The OLWQS has further proven their dedication to the stewardship and monitoring of Osoyoos Lake by fundraising to purchase an OLWQS owned pontoon boat which allows them to continue this important monitoring. Recently their previous moorage location has become unavailable and despite concerted efforts by the OLWQS, a new and suitable moorage location has not been found. Without proper moorage for their pontoon boat, important future Osoyoos Lake water quality data will be lost, and with it, key information in understanding changes in lake health which will reduce our ability to respond and adapt to those changes in a timely manner. This is particularly important following last year’s wildfires in the watershed, and other future anticipated and unanticipated climate change impacts.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy fully supports the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society’s continued participation in the BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program and hopes that you will consider their request for moorage of their pontoon boat at the Desert Sunrise Marina and Boat Launch.

Sincerely,

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Kirsten McNeill, R.P.Bio

Aquatic Stewardship Coordinator

Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy.