

Central Coast Regional District Press Release

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For Immediate Release

CCRD Chair Alison Sayers travels to Precipice to meet with residents

Central Coast Regional District Chair Alison Sayers traveled to the Precipice this week to meet residents and hear their concerns about the ongoing wildfire situation in the area.

“I was very honoured to be able to listen to the experiences of the residents of this remote and unique part of our regional district,” said Sayers. “It was a real privilege to be invited into their homes and learn a little bit about their lives and how they have been impacted by the wildfire this summer.”

The visit was a joint effort between the CCRD and the BC Wildfire Service. Fire Information Officer Robert Cunneyworth, part of the management team for the area, accompanied Sayers on the trip.

The region is located in the furthest reaches of the boundaries of the CCRD and is accessible only by rough, gravel road from Anahim Lake. There are two active homesteads in the area and the residents there are largely self-sufficient.

“The independence, self-reliance, and depth of character these folks obviously possess is a real indicator of how challenging and rewarding a remote and self-sufficient life can be in a place like the Precipice,” Sayers noted.

As expected, the area does not see a lot of activity and the ongoing fire management efforts have had a big impact on residents. Structural Protection Units have been employed on all of the homesteads and remain in place. Firefighting efforts continue to adjust with the fire’s behavior and assessments are ongoing.

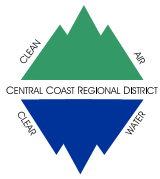
“We feel very well-protected,” shared resident Monika Reid. “It was so tense at the start but now we are feeling much better.”

Crews have been deployed in the area since the beginning and the residents remain grateful for their on-going presence. At present, there are 268 people staffing the Anahim Lake Fire Camp located at the Ulkatcho Millsite, about an hour from the front lines.

“I can’t say enough good things about the firefighting crews,” said resident Pat Taylor. “It brings tears to your eyes.”

While there has been no damage to homes or structures in the area, residents have concerns over infrastructure such as fencing being destroyed and damaged due to the fires and the effects this may have on their livelihoods.

“CCRD will continue to maintain contact with Precipice residents as they move towards the recovery phase of this wildfire,” Sayers said. “Having been through a natural disaster myself, I know how lasting



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the impacts of something like this can be. It's our role as local government to do whatever we can to advocate for the needs of our constituents who are affected by natural events like wildfires.”

For updates visit the CCRD website at www.ccrd-bc.ca