

August 4, 2026

To: Nicole Jones, P.Eng.
Senior Inspector of Mines – Permitting
Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

Sent via email: MMD-Kamloops@gov.bc.ca

Re: Opposition to the Proposed Garnet Valley Gravel Mine

Dear Ms. Jones,

The Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to once again reiterate our strong opposition to the proposed Garnet Valley Gravel Mine and respectfully request that the application be denied.

The Chamber previously opposed this proposal because of its potential impacts on tourism, agriculture, transportation infrastructure, environmental values, and the long-term economic prosperity of the South Okanagan. Those concerns remain today.

We appreciate the Province's decision to reopen public consultation following the B.C. Supreme Court's decision to set aside the original permit approval. The Court identified significant shortcomings in the original review, including concerns related to ecological impacts, regional land-use planning, and geotechnical risk. We encourage the Province to ensure these issues are fully addressed before any decision is made.

The Chamber is not opposed to aggregate extraction. Construction materials are essential to supporting housing, infrastructure, and economic growth throughout British Columbia. However, aggregate operations should be located where they are compatible with surrounding land uses and do not compromise established economic drivers. In our view, this proposal does not strike that balance.

The South Okanagan's economy is built on a diverse mix of industries, with tourism and agriculture serving as two of its strongest economic pillars. Garnet Valley has become known for its natural beauty, agricultural character, outdoor recreation, and growing tourism appeal. Introducing a large industrial gravel operation into this landscape risks undermining the very qualities that attract visitors, support local businesses, and encourage investment throughout the region.

We also note that this proposal continues to face significant opposition from the District of Summerland, snpink'tn (Penticton Indian Band), local residents, and regional stakeholders. When a project remains fundamentally at odds with a community's long-term vision after years of review, that should weigh heavily in the Province's decision-making.

The Chamber supports economic development that creates lasting prosperity while respecting existing industries and community values. In this case, we believe the long-term economic benefits generated by tourism, agriculture, recreation, and the region's quality of life far outweigh the benefits of locating this aggregate operation in Garnet Valley.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Province deny the proposed Garnet Valley Road Pit application.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments.

Sincerely,



Jordan Knox,
President



Michael Magnusson,
Executive Director

Cc: The Honourable Jagrup Brar, Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals
The Honourable Brittney Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities
The Honourable Tamara Davidson, Minister of Environment and Parks
The Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests
The Honourable Spencer Chandra Herbert, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
The Honourable Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth
The Honourable Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Amelia Boulton, MLA for Penticton-Summerland
ȩlmixw̓m (Chief) Greg Gabriel, snpink'tn (Penticton Indian Band)
Mayor Doug Holmes and Council, District of Summerland