

Provincial Agricultural Land Commission - Applicant Submission

Application ID: 61770

Application Status: Under LG Review **Applicant:** Dilbag Brar, Sarabjeet Brar **Local Government:** City of Kelowna

Local Government Date of Receipt: 01/08/2021

ALC Date of Receipt: This application has not been submitted to ALC yet.

Proposal Type: Non-Adhering Residential Use - Additional Residence for Farm Use

Proposal: This property was planted with apples and pears long time ago and the owner used the fourplex for farm workers and manager. Later the trees were pulled and converted into bare land. The conditions did not match the non adhering residential use so the city of Kelowna ordered to close the building. Applicant is currently living in Keremeos and running 15acres. Has recently bought this property in Kelowna and will plant an orchard in 2021. Applicant wants to use additional residence for himself, manager and four farm workers who will help him for planting and taking care of orchard.

Mailing Address:

2721 middle bench rd Keremeos , BC V0x 1n2 Canada

Primary Phone: (250) 499-1865 **Mobile Phone:** (250) 499-9745 **Email:** malke01636@gmail.com

Parcel Information

Parcel(s) Under Application

1. Ownership Type: Fee Simple Parcel Identifier: 012-019-771

Legal Description: LOT 7 BLOCK 9 SECTION 33 TOWNSHIP 26 OSOYOOS DIVISION

YALE DISTRICT PLAN 896 EXCEPT PLAN B3900

Parcel Area: 5 ha

Civic Address: East of Valley Rd., Glenmore Valley, City of Kelowna

Date of Purchase: 11/09/2020 **Farm Classification:** Yes

Owners

1. Name: Dilbag Brar

Address:

2721 middle bench rd Keremeos , BC V0x 1n2

Canada

Phone: (250) 499-1865 **Cell:** (250) 499-9745

Email: malke01636@gmail.com

2. Name: Sarabjeet Brar

Applicant: Dilbag Brar, Sarabjeet Brar

Address:

2721 Middle Bench Road Keremeos, BC V0X 1N2 Canada

Phone: (250) 499-9745 **Cell:** (250) 499-2101

Email: malke01636@gmail.com



Current Use of Parcels Under Application

- 1. Quantify and describe in detail all agriculture that currently takes place on the parcel(s). No Agriculture
- **2.** Quantify and describe in detail all agricultural improvements made to the parcel(s). Clearing undertaken on parcel. Land is ploughed and levelled. The property is fenced on Dec, 4 2020. Trees are ordered to be planted in 2021. Plan is to plant peaches, apples and cherries.
- **3.** Quantify and describe all non-agricultural uses that currently take place on the parcel(s). Its a bare land which will be planted in 2021, May. It has a residential house on it which is on rent and is helping with the mortgage.

Adjacent Land Uses

North

Land Use Type: Commercial / Retail **Specify Activity:** Houses and Plaza

East

Land Use Type: Agricultural/Farm Specify Activity: Cherry orchard

South

Land Use Type: Agricultural/Farm Specify Activity: Apple Orchard

West

Land Use Type: Other

Specify Activity: 13 acres bare land with 2 homes on it.

Proposal

1. What is the purpose of the proposal?

This property was planted with apples and pears long time ago and the owner used the fourplex for farm workers and manager. Later the trees were pulled and converted into bare land. The conditions did not match the non adhering residential use so the city of Kelowna ordered to close the building. Applicant is currently living in Keremeos and running 15 acres. Has recently bought this property in Kelowna and will

Applicant: Dilbag Brar, Sarabjeet Brar

plant an orchard in 2021. Applicant wants to use additional residence for himself, manager and four farm workers who will help him for planting and taking care of orchard.

2. Describe the necessity for an additional residence for farm use and how it will support agriculture in the short or long term.

This additional res will help applicant to hire temporary farm workers who can live on the property and help him in planting and taking care of Orchard and applicant can himself use one of the units of the fourplex to live as Keremeos is 110 km away from Kelowna and is hard to go back and forth everyday.

3. Describe the size, type and number, as well as occupancy of all residential structures currently located on the property.

There is one building which is divided into four units. Each unit has two bedrooms, one bathroom, laundry, kitchen, and a living room with a total floor area of 500m2.

One unit will be used by the owner for himself.

2nd unit will be used by the manager.

Third and fourth units will be used for workers. two workers can use one unit.

4. What is the total floor area of the proposed additional residence in square metres? $1000 \ m^2$

5. Describe the rationale for the proposed location of the additional residence.

The temporary farm workers and manager can use the additional residence to live on the farm and help applicant in running the orchard like planting, irrigation, spraying, pruning, thinning, and picking.

- **6.** What is the total area of infrastructure necessary to support the additional residence? This non adhering residence building is already existing on the property and only needs approval to reopen for farm workers which has a total floor area of 1000m2.
- 7. Do you need to import any fill to construct the additional residence or infrastructure? No

Applicant Attachments

- Proposal Sketch-61770
- Certificate of Title-012-019-771

ALC Attachments

None.

Decisions

None.



A Report to Support Temporary Farm Worker Housing: Dilbag and Sarabjit Brar 355 Valley Road, Kelowna, B.C.

December 4, 2020





Report Prepared by Carl Withler P.Ag.

DBA "Green Spark Consulting"

Kelowna B.C.

This report has been prepared by a Professional Agrologist at the request of the City of Kelowna planning staff to give them confidence that the previously occupied, and residentially rented, house located at the forefront of 355 Valley Road in Kelowna will be used as Farm Worker housing as proposed by Dilbag and Sarabjit Brar of Keremeos, B.C.

To provide this recommendation, the following report has been prepared and follows a rigorous information search and review as well as experience-based observations and recommendations for the City to consider.

Report outline:

- 1. Arable land estimate and farm plan review.
- 2. Temporary Farm Worker Housing estimate.
- 3. General Commentary
- 4. Recommendations
- 5. Statement of Qualifications



Arable Land Estimate and Farm Plan review: In order to attempt to determine the need for Temporary Farm Workers (TFW) either through the Federally administered Temporary Farm Worker program (TFWP) or by a supply of local labour an estimate of arable land for treefruit farming was made from Google Earth images and field review. It is estimated that a total of 3.9 ha. (refer to photo #1) of arable area is available on the property. Added to this review, the project proponents have provided a draft farm plan (Appendix #1) which was compared to basic soil classifications provided through the Provincial Government Soil Information Finder Tool (SIFT). From this review I am confident the proposed plantings fit well on the landscape and match the Glenmore soil profile.



Photo 1: 355 Valley road Google Earth estimate of arable area.

Housing Need: There is not an easy spreadsheet or quick calculation available that directly equates a land area or crop type to the "need" for farm worker housing. That said, there are some general assumptions that can be made regarding farm worker housing for the property in question.

First, this farm is undergoing a significant transition from a traditional low input forage crop (photo#2) to a highly labour intensive treefruit orchard with cherries, apples, and peaches. Each of these treefruit crops require significant labour inputs to prepare the ground, install irrigation systems, build trellis' and support systems, plant the trees and tend them as they mature and ultimately bare a crop annually. Once in production these crops will require annualized, pruning (March-May), thinning (June-July), weed control (March-October), pesticide spraying (April-October) and harvesting (June-October). As well, there are other activities related to machinery upkept, trellis construction to support trees, fence repair and all sorting, grading and selling of fruit either to a packing facility or directly to the public off the property.

ATTACHMENT B

This forms part of application
A21-0004

City of

Planner Initials

TC

City of

City of

City of

The Brar's have done well in selecting crops that cover approximately 1/3 of the property each and move through a normalized harvest cycle starting with cherries in July and finishing with apples in October. This stabilizes the need for labour rather than needing it on a peak and laying it off when not needed.

There is some discussion in the cherry industry that in order to produce the high quality, sweet, crisp cherries that the Brar's are proposing to plant 1 worker/acre is needed, and I believe this to be true. Currently, the Brar's are proposing to plant approximately 3-4 acres of cherries as well as peaches and apples. As stated earlier, there are no similar labour estimates for apples and peaches, but from experience 1-2 workers will be needed to work through the peach and apple season.

As well as generalized labour, the Brar's will not immediately move to Kelowna as they have significant, fully productive orchard properties in Keremeos and Cawston, so there will be a need for "on-site" farm management to organize farm labour, secure supplies and equipment, deliver fruit to market and keep a presence on the property generally to ensure safety and security of the farm assets. This farm manager should be housed on the property to allow direct and rapid communication between the Brar's and Kelowna based farm personnel.

Even though the Brar's will not immediately move to Kelowna, they will continue to improve this property through the late winter of 2020/21 and wish to use the farm worker housing house proposed as a base of operations, staying in it when not farming in Keremeos or Cawston. Using the basement of the house located at 355 Valley road for this purpose will allow the Brar's to stay several days on their property, work with their farm manage and farm employees, reduce the risk of extended travel to/from Keremeos and Cawston after long days of farming.





Photo #3: proposed farm worker housing at 355 Valley road.



В

This forms part of application # A21-0004





Photo #2: traditional forage production at 355 Valley road

General Commentary: I have only met, in person, the Brar's once, but from my previous role administering the Provincial Treefruit Replant Program remember their names from their orchards in Cawston and Keremeos which they have replanted successfully.

The Brar's came to Canada in 2009 and have worked on farms, and off, to purchase, or lease orchard properties in the Similkameen valley. I have reviewed each of these parcels and can confirm that they are fully planted out and producing orchards and expect the same of the Brar's efforts at 355 Valley road. They have already professionally installed \$30, 000.00 worth

of deer fencing, invested \$18, 000.00 in land levelling and have ordered rootstock and trees to begin planting 355 Valley road in the spring of 2021. (Appendix 2) This is on top of a purchase price greater than \$1.5 million dollars for the property to start.

In dealing with the Brar's they have provided me with all, any every piece of information I have asked to review, and I am confident their intent is to farm this property as successfully as they do their other orchards.



Arial view of 2721 Middlebench Road, Keremeos (leased/fully planted)





Aerial view of 1901 Stewart road, Cawston (planted to Ambrosia/owned)



Aerial view: 1966 Highway 3, Cawston (peaches, apples/owned)



Recommendations: Based on my review of various information sources, on site field review and interviews with the Brar's I would recommend that the City of Kelowna allow the Brar's to house farm workers at 355 Valley road generally following the existing layout of the house in question. That being a maximum of 4 workers on the upper levels of the house, a suite for a farm manager in the lower level and a suite for the Brar's to inhabit "as and when' in the lower level as well. It is also in the best interest of the City of Kelowna to place various covenants restricting use of the building as it would with any other farm worker housing within city limits. Lastly, a basic fence (chain link/wooden) should be built behind the house as outlined on the farm plan to protect workers from orchard activities when not in the orchard.

I hope that this report suffices in giving the City of Kelowna confidence to approve Mr. and Mrs. Brar's application, should further information be required the author remains available to either the Brars or City of Kelowna staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Withler P.Ag. (#695)



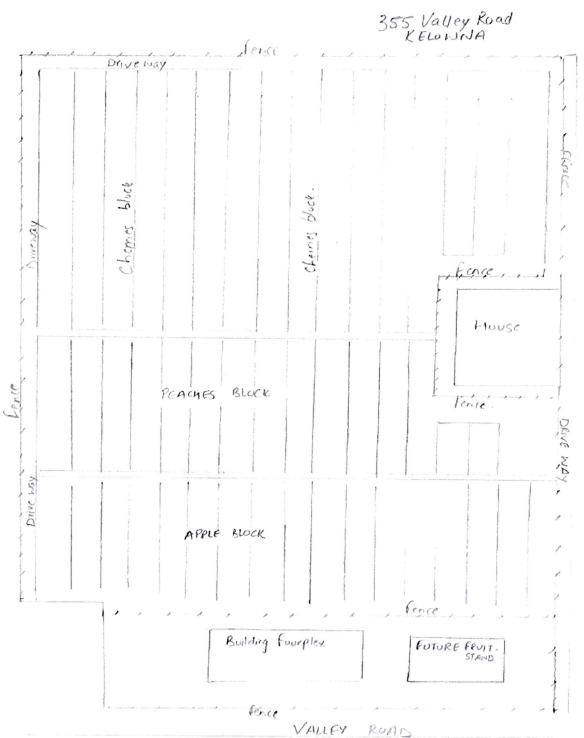
Statement of Qualifications: as required by the Professional Governance Act of British Columbia, I confirm the following to be a true statement of my qualifications with respect to the information in this report.

The author of this report is a Professional Agrologist (#695) registered and in good standing in the province of British Columbia and has been so for over 30 years. Because of this registration he is bound by a code of ethics, guided by standard and normal practices and uses scientific and field information to come to logical and rational recommendations and decisions.

Specific to this report Mr. Withler has spent 40 years in production agriculture working in every commodity from animal husbandry to tree fruit horticulture in Canada and abroad. During his working career Mr. Withler worked very closely with the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), Ministry of Agriculture Strengthening Farming program staff and Local Government planners to create and review bylaws related to agricultural production. As well, Mr. Withler is relied on by Farm Industry Review board hearings as a "Knowledgeable Person" and allowed to offer opinion regarding normalized farming practices. Recently, the author retired from the provincial civil service as the Industry Specialist for the Tree fruit and Grape industries and is working as an Environmental Farm planner and replant inspector for the Treefruit Replant program. Mr. Withler is now the lead Agrologist for Green Spark Consulting



Appendix #1: Farm Plan 355 Valley Road.





Appendix#2: receipts supplied to confirm farm commitment.

	6200 Miltimore Avenue Summerland, BC VOH 124		130/20			
ACODA MANAGE	DILBAG BRAR SARABSECT BRAR CAWSTON BC	99 1865				
SALMANDE O	SCEPHI SEE SEE	Mistoria.	Spring	, 202/	1	
4600	M9 BENCH GRAFTS 1.68 ROOT CROWER SUPPLIES GRAFT WOOD DEPOSIT REQUIRED BY DEC 5/20 TO CONFIRM ORDER DEPOSIT NON-REFUNDABLE AMBUNT \$850000 DEPOSIT. BALANCE DUE AT TIME OF PICK PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN COPY BE ACKNOWLEDGING DEPOSIT TERMS	OP	GST		40	
	INVOICE FACTURE			87	INPERIS I	

ATTACHME	NT B
This forms part of ap	plication
Planner Initials TC	City of Kelowna DEVELOPMENT PLANNING



A.G. Appel Enterprises Ltd.

INVOICE

Enter Date
Frage

11/23/93/93

Said to Bres, Didop & Sarehjest/C 2721 Miste Berch Rd

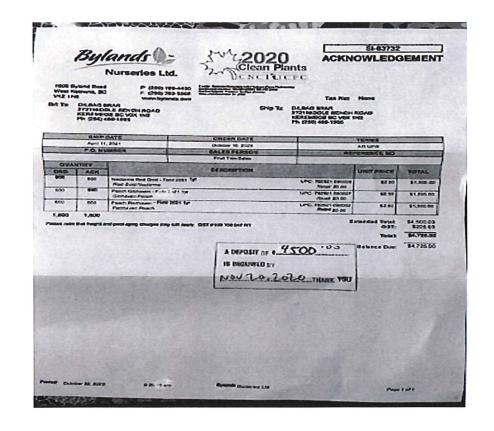
Feer, Oiting & Soradjourg Cl States Ped - Entourist May 6-74

Charty	Urb	Description.	Tax	Unit Prime	Amount
32 s		7 Asia Landred 1 Adia Landred 1017 Cast Publisher 1017 Cast Publis	33 33 33 33 33 33 3	110 oct 110 oc	201 2 501 2 500 2 200 2 200 3 600 3 600 3 600 4 600 4 600 4 77 6
attraced	Yestel	ha Navanar		Total Armost Armost Past Armost Owing	19,250.91

ST# 751231317 quedgerdepre	1			14 2020	
2010 Dillog Bear +	SHP TO ADDRESS				
damen's Order Jack by Teme	imalk	e 01636	@gr	ail. com	_
QUANTITY DESCRIPTION		PRICE	UNIT	AMOUN	T
3210 ft Deer Fen	۲۶.	800	f+	25 680	
2 double gates	5	950	meh	1900	
2 man gates		23000	each	460	
			+	28,040	
		-	-		Ť
		P	lus GST		•









Bill of Sale
Dit 196 S- Blan (30 20) and John DER KHOAD
The Buller hursby grants transfer or a de of the following goods:
Kubuta Theeter 8540 with mink of Leader.
Serial Va. 885.36
so the Baller in exchange for in the emount of \$ 40000 e av
The Salles's manature below equales that he is the levisi owner of the goods lasted above, and the saller has the right to sall the goods as he/she chooses. After each augo of payment, the Buyer randers fall rights and a marship of the goods lasted above
Byle Dec 7/2020
Diller sings from Dec 7/2020
Paid Dy Cheques 008





April 16, 2021

File No: 0280-30

Local Government File No: A21-004

City of Kelowna 1435 Water St Kelowna BC V1Y 1J4

Via E-mail: <u>planninginfo@kelowna.ca</u>

Dear City of Kelowna planning staff:

Re: Non-Adhering Residential Use, 355-357 Valley Road, Parcel Identifier: 012-019-771

Thank you for providing B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries staff the opportunity to comment on the proposed non-adhering residential use application. From an agricultural perspective, we offer the following comments on the materials provided:

- The applicant has stated an intent to plant cherries, apples and peaches on the 12.3-acre property. As part of the orchard development and operation, the applicant has identified a residential need for both himself and farm workers. The applicant wishes to use an existing, unused residential structure for this purpose.
- Another residential structure exists on the property and is rented out. The
 applicant could re-purpose this for himself and farm workers, negating the need to
 re-open the non-adhering residential structure.
- Additional residential structures utilized by people other than the farmer or farm workers can lead to a rise in the cost of farmland unconnected to its agricultural capability as well as an increase in complaints about surrounding farm practices.

If you have any questions, please contact us directly by email or phone.

Sincerely,

Alison Fox, P.Ag. Land Use Agrologist Chris Zabek, P.Ag. Regional Agrologist

Chris Sabele

Telephone: 250 861-7211

Toll Free: 1 888 332-3352

Web Address: http://gov.bc.ca/agri/

B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Alison.Fox@gov.bc.ca (778) 666-0566 B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Chris.Zabek@gov.bc.ca (250) 861-7680

