**Environmental Management**

Biodiversity Management

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27 March 2017

False Bay Nature Reserve

7 Zeekoevlei Road

Zeekoevlei

Dear Zeekoevlei resident

**NOTICE RE: DRAWDOWN OF ZEEKOEVLEI (April 2017) AND SHORELINE MAINTENANCE**

The management of False Bay Nature Reserve would like to inform residents that the Zeekoevlei weir will be opened on 27 April 2017 at 10:00 for the annual drawdown of the wetland. This intervention is carried out to allow the vlei to be drained of excess nutrients during the winter rainfall period. The lowered water levels also allow for easier access, to remove litter and excess reeds from the vlei.

The Zeekoevlei weir will be closed again on 9 June 2017. However, this date is flexible to accommodate a potential cold front and heavy rain that may be present at that time.

Residents are reminded that, during the drawdown period, no shoreline maintenance activities may be conducted at Zeekoevlei without obtaining an approved shoreline maintenance plan, which needs to be developed in conjunction with the management of False Bay Nature Reserve. Any shoreline maintenance activities carried out without the possession of an approved maintenance plan or failure to comply with the conditions stated within an approved plan could result in fines being issued to the land owner.

Please note that all shoreline plans issued previously to January 2017 have expired and require renewing before shoreline maintenance can take place.

Shoreline maintenance refers to any alterations carried out along the shoreline, or within the Zeekoevlei wetland. This includes activities such as cutting or digging of reeds, removal or disturbance of soil or vegetation, use of machinery (e.g. bulldozers), planting of vegetation (indigenous or exotic species), any construction (e.g. boardwalks, retaining walls, fishing platforms etc.), or driving of vehicles (e.g. quad bikes, motorbikes, truck or any other motor vehicles) in the vlei.

No jetties may be constructed; nor existing jetties replaced. A jetty policy will be drawn up in the near future to address existing jetties around Zeekoevlei, but no further jetty construction will be permitted.

If you wish to obtain a shoreline maintenance plan to carry out any of the above mentioned activities around your property, please contact the False Bay Nature Reserve office at Tel: 021 400 3437 or email Victoria.Day@capetown.gov.za, and a False Bay Nature Reserve representative will then assist you in developing a suitable plan.

This year’s deadline for applications is 31 May 2017, after which no new maintenance plans will be considered for the 2017 drawdown period. The shoreline maintenance period for drawdown 2017 is 1 April 2017 until the 9July 2017. Shoreline maintenance may only be carried out during this period after obtaining an approved shoreline maintenance plan. Maintenance activities may only be carried out during the periods specified annually by way of public notice.

False Bay Nature Reserve staff will assist specifically with the collection of reeds removed from the properties of residents that have approved shoreline maintenance plans. If these residents require such assistance, reeds need to be bundled and placed neatly on the sidewalks of the relevant properties.

Any piles of reeds stacked outside the properties of residents without a shoreline maintenance plan, stacked on sidewalks in a haphazard manner, or placed on road verges/properties outside the shoreline maintenance period of April to June 2017, will not be collected by False Bay Nature Reserve. This may lead to a fine for dumping, so please ensure that you stay within the allocated dates. General garden waste or other refuse will not be collected and such waste may not be placed with the reed piles.

Dogs must remain under the control of dog owners at all times and must not be allowed to run in the wetland, disturbing the local fauna and flora.

Aquatic alien plants from within the wetland, such as wandering Jew (*Commelina sp*.) or water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes)* may be removed at any time, and a special arrangement may be made with False Bay Nature Reserve management for the collection thereof.

Approved shoreline maintenance plans will inform residents about what activities are permitted on land abutting their properties and provide guidelines on how such activities may be conducted by the residents. In the case of reed or vegetation removal, the approved plans will define the ideal state to which reed beds and vegetation may be cleared, depending on the nature and structure of individual properties.

Any queries about the annual drawdown please do not hesitate to contact us either by phone (021 400 3437) or via email (Victoria.Day@capetown.gov.za)

Kind regards

**The False Bay Nature Reserve Management Team**

Environmental Resource Management Department

City of Cape Town