



F15-06-MS

Float-plane operator seeks information about competitor's water lease application

A float-plane company was concerned a competitor might gain an advantage if the city approved a new water lease adjacent to its own operations. The owner requested meeting minutes of a city council committee that was reviewing the proposed lease, as well as reports presented during the meeting.

The city told the applicant that two reports were responsive to his request and released one but not the other because, it said, it was unrelated to his property. This may have been a common-sense response, but it was not one of the exceptions to the right of access authorized by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. During mediation of his request for a review of that decision, the business owner agreed to close the file if we could confirm that the second report was indeed unrelated to him or his competitor. We reviewed the records and gave him the confirmation he needed to consider the matter closed.