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25 June 2010

The Honourable Barry Penner
Minister of Environment
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V9W 9E2

Dear Minister Penner:

RE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN – AMENDMENT NO. 8

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) it is my pleasure to submit Amendment No. 8 (binder attached) to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan. Amendment No. 8 builds on information submitted to you in Amendment No. 7 and addresses all of the issues raised in your letter dated 09 February 2010, including the following:

1. *Identify the site(s) for treatment of Westshore wastewater*

A site was identified for a wastewater treatment plant on the Westshore on Wishart Road in Colwood, adjacent to the Colwood City Hall. The site was evaluated through an environmental impact study (EIS) and a public consultation process was conducted, as described in Sections 8 and 10 of the Amendment. It was concluded, however, that a treatment plant at this location could be deferred to a second phase of the project when capacity at the McLoughlin plant was no longer sufficient to accommodate growth on the Westshore. The EIS and public consultation reports referred to above are available on request.

2. *Identify site(s) for biosolids processing*

Two sites have been evaluated for biosolids processing, one at upper Victoria Harbor and one at Hartland landfill. As agreement could not be reached regarding the acquisition of the Upper Victoria Harbour site, Hartland landfill continues to be the proposed site for biosolids processing. An environmental impact study for the proposed McLoughlin Point treatment plant and Hartland biosolids processing facility is appended to Section 8 of the Amendment.

3. *Environmental impact studies for the selected sewage treatment facility sites*

An environmental impact study (EIS) has been completed for the proposed facilities at McLoughlin Point and Hartland landfill and the EIS document is appended to Section 8 of the Amendment.

4. *A progress report on marine environmental impact assessment work carried out on the selected new outfall locations*

Section 9 of the Amendment includes an update on the marine environmental impact assessment work being carried out on potential outfall locations at the Westshore and Saanich East. This work is being modified to take account of the deferment of treatment plants at these locations.

5. *The final draft operational certificates for selected sewage treatment facilities*

A draft operational certificate for the selected sewage treatment facility at McLoughlin Point is provided in Section 12 of this Amendment.

6. *An updated public and First Nations consultation summary report*

The requested report is provided in Section 10 and in Appendix H to Section 10.

7. *A copy of the business case, submitted by the CRD to the Ministry of Community and Rural Development, including the results of the assessment of public/private partnerships and procurement details*

As indicated in Section 11, the business case in support of the application for provincial funding was submitted to the Honourable Bill Bennet, Minister of Community and Rural Development on 31 March 2010. A copy of the business case was also provided to the Honourable Barry Penner, Minister of Environment. A revision to the provincial business case is currently being prepared to incorporate the changes resulting from Amendment No. 8.

Your letter also requested the CRD to "reconsider the opportunities to beneficially use biosolids as a fertilizer and soil amendment product" and to "develop an emergency contingency plan to handle biosolids." As Amendment No. 7 contained a commitment to complete and submit to the ministry by the end of 2010 a "Resource Recovery and Use Plan" it is proposed to respond to the above request in this document.

You also noted the need for "investigating priorities and opportunities to phase the project components." This is addressed in Amendment No. 8 as follows:

Clover Point Wet Weather Treatment Plant

Stantec Consulting Ltd. carried out a comprehensive review of the benefits and costs of a wet weather treatment plant at Clover Point. The main finding was that, by diverting flows of up to 3 times the average dry flow from Clover Point to McLoughlin Point for treatment, the annual solids loading discharged at Clover Point would be reduced by about 99%. It was therefore concluded that a Clover Point wet weather treatment plant that would remove the last 1% loading at a capital cost of \$27 million and an annual operating cost of \$600,000 would not provide good value for money. Amendment No. 8 therefore removes from the LWMP the commitment to provide a wet weather treatment plant at Clover Point until such time as there is a demonstrated environmental need for this facility

Westshore Treatment Plant at Wishart Road in Colwood

Amendment No. 7 proposed construction of a treatment plant in the Westshore. Subsequently CRD staff worked with Colwood and Langford to determine the location and required size of such a treatment plant. It was concluded that the plant should be at Wishart Road in Colwood and have a capacity of 7 ML/d with an additional 7 ML/d capacity to be provided at the proposed central treatment plant at McLoughlin Point. Further analysis has concluded that the McLoughlin plant can be modified to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate all sewage generated on the Westshore until about 2030, depending on the population growth rate, the rate at which existing homes and businesses are connected to the sewer system and the rate at which per-capita water consumption continues to decline.

Saanich East-North Oak Bay Treatment Plant

Amendment No. 7 proposed construction of a treatment plant at Saanich East-North Oak Bay. Further analysis has concluded that the McLoughlin Plant can be modified to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate all sewage generated in Saanich East for the foreseeable future. However, wet weather flow attenuation tanks will be required at this location to ensure the transmission of all Saanich East flows to McLoughlin Point for treatment.

In summary, the system configuration proposed in Amendment No. 8 includes a treatment plant at McLoughlin Point with biosolids processing at Hartland landfill. This configuration results in a reduced system capital cost of \$782,685,800 and a reduced annual operating cost of \$14,571,200.

The CRD remains committed to pursuing the following project goals:

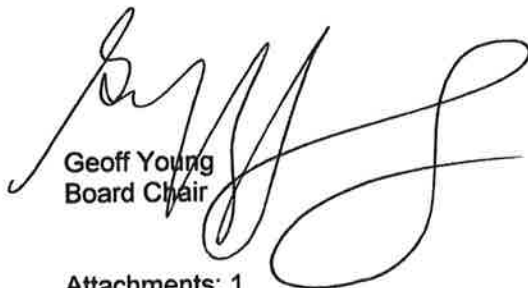
- Meet the regulatory requirements for wastewater treatment.
- Optimize the beneficial reuse of resources and the integration of solid and liquid waste planning.
- Ensure that all sludge generated by the proposed facilities is appropriately treated and managed in accordance with the Municipal Sewage Regulation and the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation.
- Implement a strategy for the management of wet weather flows that includes a cost effective combination of flow reduction, storage and treatment.
- Minimize the total project cost to taxpayers.
- Aggressively pursue opportunities to minimize the generation of greenhouse gases and achieve a net negative carbon footprint for the entire system.
- Complete all works by the end of 2016 on the premise of one-third capital funding of eligible costs from both the federal and provincial governments.

The CRD will continue to explore options to further improve the proposed system configuration to ensure that it is the most cost effective solution that will meet environmental and social needs and comply with provincial and federal regulations.

In the meantime, your approval of Amendment No. 8 to the Capital Regional District Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan would be appreciated.

Should you or your ministry staff have any questions about the attached documents, please have your staff contact Jack Hull, General Manager, Integrated Water Services by telephone at 250-360-3092 or by e-mail at jhull@crd.bc.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Geoff Young
Board Chair

Attachments: 1

cc: CRD Board of Directors
Honourable Ben Stewart, Minister of Community and Rural Development
Randy Alexander, Regional Environmental Protection Manager, Ministry of Environment
Kelly Daniels, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Jack Hull, General Manager, Integrated Water Services, CRD