

Why is a wastewater facility necessary in Saanich East – North Oak Bay?

Some residents have questioned why a treatment facility is needed in Saanich East-North Oak Bay. The CRD has researched treatment plant locations; several reasons have shown why treatment is necessary in this area.

To treat wastewater locally

Population and wastewater flows are increasing in the CRD, and could increase by 80% by 2065. A treatment facility in Saanich East-North Oak Bay would allow waste to be processed nearer to its source. If wastewater is not treated locally, it must occur elsewhere.

To deal with wet weather flows

Heavy rainfall increases the flow of wastewater, sometimes overflowing sewer mains. A Saanich East-North Oak Bay facility would capture and treat these wet weather flows during rainfall events, keeping our environment safer and protecting public health. Local facilities also minimize the cost and disruption of upgrading sewer lines and pump stations downstream.

To avoid the need for flow attenuation tanks

Without local treatment, wet weather flows would require storage tank facilities at the Finnerty-Arbutus site. Storage does not provide treatment but facilities for storage tanks would cover a significant land footprint.

To provide opportunities for energy and water recovery

A local treatment facility can provide opportunities for energy and water recovery. Water can be reclaimed for irrigation, if desired; energy from wastewater flows can be recovered to heat institutional buildings near the facility.



Next Steps



Community Engagement

Neighbourhood consultation in Saanich East will be divided into two steps. Step 1 (June) will involve the selection of a site; Step 2 (Fall 2009) will focus on the specific issues related to the site, including design, fit, mitigation and possible community benefits.

Saanich East-North Oak Bay Open Houses & Neighbourhood Workshop

The open house sessions will provide information on potential treatment facility locations in the Saanich East-North Oak Bay area. Display boards and handouts will present information about the wastewater treatment system and the need for a facility in Saanich East-North Oak Bay. You can learn the results of studies conducted and ask questions of the CRD staff and consultants. This information will also be available on the wastewater website.

The workshop will provide a forum for residents to share their views and help the CRD obtain input on the candidate sites. Community input will be recorded by staff and comments will be collected for a staff report. Public comments that are specific to environmental and social topics will be summarized for inclusion in the Environmental and Social Review assessment and report to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee.

The Decision Process

After the Saanich East-North Oak Bay open houses and neighbourhood workshop, the CRD will review public comments. Additional research will be conducted if necessary.

Environmental & Social Review

The results will support the completion of an Environmental and Social Review (ESR) for the Saanich East-North Oak Bay facility. The ESR examines physical,

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cultural, biological and community effects of the proposed wastewater facilities. The results of this assessment, when combined with a triple bottom line analysis, will help the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee (CALWMC) determine how to move forward with wastewater treatment.

Environmental Impact Study

Once a site is selected, a provincially mandated Environmental Impact Study (EIS) will be conducted. The Ministry of Environment uses the EIS as part of its review of the CRD's Liquid Waste Management Plan amendment that would include a facility in Saanich East-North Oak Bay.

The ESR and the EIS will ensure that the potential project effects will be fully examined. CALWMC will make the final decision as to where the Saanich East-North Oak Bay facility should be located. Construction is expected to begin in 2010.

Everybody Has a Say

Please speak with CRD staff, fill out a comment form, attend the neighbourhood workshop or submit comments online at www.wastewatermadeclear.ca.

The Neighbourhood Workshop for Saanich East-North Oak Bay will take place **June 22 from 6:30 – 9 pm**

To ensure everyone can be accommodated at the neighbourhood workshop, we ask that you please pre-register online at www.wastewatermadeclear.ca or by calling **250.360.3001**.

CRD

W A S T E W A T E R T R E A T M E N T M A D E C L E A R



Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project

Saanich East North Oak Bay Wastewater Treatment Site Selection

CRD

Making a difference...together



The Capital Regional District is working toward providing cost effective, innovative and environmentally responsible wastewater treatment to residents in the Core Area. This project will see the upgrading of treatment practices to account for the demands of our increasing population. At every step of the way, we will be employing a triple bottom line methodology, considering the social, environmental and economic impacts of treatment options. In this way, we will ensure that the CRD's wastewater treatment project is sustainable, affordable and environmental sound.

SAANICH EAST-NORTH OAK BAY

Candidate Sites

Selecting candidate sites for Saanich East-North Oak Bay involved assessment of the area using detailed siting criteria. The CRD assessed environmental and community conditions to identify possible sites. These conditions included: archaeological, land use compatibility, geotechnical suitability, energy conservation potential, ecological suitability and water reuse and energy recovery potential.

Six maps were produced by applying the criteria to the study area. The maps are available for viewing on the wastewater website: www.wastewatermadeclear.ca

What was included and excluded when selecting candidate sites?

In identifying areas for further investigation, a decision was made to exclude:

- Parcels smaller than 1.5 hectares
- Areas developed for housing
- Areas already occupied by institutional structures (buildings on the UVic and Queen Alexandra grounds)
- Areas used for school playgrounds

Narrowing the Field

After meeting with representatives of the Queen Alexandra Foundation and UVic, portions of two high-potential areas were removed from further consideration; these areas were slated for other uses. The resulting candidate sites are shown on the following map and will be subject to an Environmental and Social review, conducted by the CRD's consultants.



ESTIMATED CAPITAL COSTS: \$146.1 MILLION
ESTIMATED OPERATING COSTS: \$2.4 MILLION

Site Considerations

- Native vegetation has been cleared from the site
- Forcemain and gravity main routes follow road rights-of-way and have little ecological value
- Recovered energy and water could be used at nearby UVic facilities
- Location is on a designated truck route, reducing construction traffic effects
- High capital and operational costs due to pump station, longer forcemains and gravity mains
- A pump station would be required at Finnerty-Arbutus, increasing overall facility footprint
- Adjacent to housing and visible to the community
- Proposed tennis courts and grass practice field would be displaced
- Construction would obstruct pedestrian and bike paths

Finnerty-Arbutus Site



ESTIMATED CAPITAL COSTS: \$126.4 MILLION
ESTIMATED OPERATING COSTS: \$2.1 MILLION PER YEAR

Site Considerations

- Adjacent to East Coast Interceptor sewer trunk
- Requires shortest gravity main
- Allows buffers between facility and residential areas
- Vegetation would visually screen facility from residential properties
- Recovered energy and water could be used at institutions within 1km of site
- Residents value the site as open space; informal paths exist throughout forest
- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Not adjacent to designated truck route
- Construction would require clearing of second growth forest
- Increased tree windthrow hazard following clearing

The University of Victoria Fields Site

Cedar Hill Corner Site



ESTIMATED CAPITAL COSTS: \$149.1 MILLION
ESTIMATED OPERATING COSTS: \$2.5 MILLION PER YEAR

Site Considerations

- Native vegetation has been cleared from the site
- Large parcel allows for buffers between facility and adjacent homes
- Recovered energy and water could be used at UVic facilities and for irrigation at the nearby golf course
- Site access provided by an arterial road
- Higher capital and operational costs due to pump station, longer forcemains and gravity mains
- Reduced area for public dog walking
- Limited visual screening to east and south
- Sewer right-of-way would be cleared through a sensitive old forest habitat
- Increased tree windthrow hazard near right-of-way