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Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project Board
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September 16, 2016

File: 0620-20
Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan
Amendments / Progress Reports to MOE

The Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Environment
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt
Room 247, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Polak:

**RE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AMENDMENT NO. 11**

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD), it is my pleasure to submit Amendment No. 11 (Appendix A) to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan (CALWMP) for your approval. Amendment No. 11 builds on information submitted to the Ministry in Amendment No. 10, which was conditionally approved on March 30, 2016.

The purpose of Amendment No. 11 is to modify the CALWMP, as summarized below:

1. *New Sewage Treatment Facility Proposed at McLoughlin Point*

After extensive evaluation of technologies, environmental investigations, public and First Nations consultations and potential sites identified across the region to date, the Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project Board (CAWTPB) proposes that a single wastewater treatment plant be located at McLoughlin Point within the Township of Esquimalt with sufficient capacity to treat all of the sewage generated within the Core Area to 2040. An environmental impact study for McLoughlin Point plant and outfall was previously completed and submitted as part of Amendment No. 8.

A second treatment plant on the Westshore will be undertaken in the future when capacity at the McLoughlin Point plant is no longer sufficient to accommodate overall growth in the Core Area.

2. *Biosolids Processing to Remain at Hartland Landfill*

Hartland Landfill continues to be the proposed site for a biosolids treatment facility to accept screenings and waste sludge from sewage treatment plants and pump stations for treatment, processing, storage and beneficial use.

The CRD considered the options for biosolids treatment and determined that treating the wastewater screenings and sludge to meet Class A standards (according to the *Organic Municipal Waste Recycling Regulation*) and storing that product in biocells is the best interim option to allow time for a long-term beneficial use option to be designed and implemented. This option is within the scope of the current CRD Solid Waste Management Plan.

The CRD will undertake a public process, with the participation of the affected municipalities and First Nations, to review its regional waste management policy to determine a long-term option at Hartland that optimizes the opportunity for integrated resource management and beneficial use of the biosolids.

CRD will file regular interim reports with the Ministry to report on the progress of this review. CRD will file its final report with the Minister by 30 June 2020 with a long-term option that can be implemented within 5 years after the completion of the LWM system.

3. *Costs, Cost Sharing, Funding and Costs Per User*

The business case in support of the application for provincial funding for the amended project was submitted to the Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. A copy of the business case was also provided to the Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment.

4. *Project Schedule to 2020*

The project schedule provides timeframes for the necessary activities to be completed to provide a minimum of secondary treatment of Core Area wastewater to meet the federal government Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations (WSER) under the regulatory authority of the Fisheries Act by December 31, 2020.

The CRD continues to conduct a comprehensive public involvement and engagement program, working directly with municipalities, including meetings with communities, community associations and open houses in the Core Area municipalities and First Nations to keep all stakeholders fully informed on all aspects of the CALWMP.

During the period from 2006 to 2010, when the currently proposed system configuration was originally approved in Amendment No. 8 (August 2010) with a single treatment plant at McLoughlin Point and a biosolids processing facility at Hartland Landfill, the CRD investigated over 114 sites among seven municipalities and two First Nations and completed 15 studies into resource recovery opportunities at an estimated cost of \$12.94 million. All investigative work and studies were publicly presented at the Technical and Community Advisory Committee (TCAC) and Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee (CALWMC) for public and stakeholder consideration.

Since 2010, the CRD has continued to conduct a comprehensive public involvement program during the Seaterra program and more recently the Core Area Sewage and Resource Recovery System 2.0 program which included the creation of the Westside and Eastside Wastewater and Resource Recovery Select Committees overseen by an independent Technical Oversight Panel

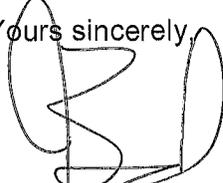
(TOP) and an independent Fairness and Transparency Advisor (FTA). All previous public consultation work has been submitted to the ministry with the previous approved Amendments 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Over the past three months, the Project Board has met with and received input from public organizations and industry professionals. The Project Board Chair and Vice Chair have also met with representatives from the CRD, all of the Core Area municipalities, and the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

The proposed amendment takes into account the results of the previous public input and the most recent consultation. The specific components the proposed plan are within the scope of this extensive consultation with the public and First Nations.

The Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project Board, under its delegated authority from the CRD Board, approved the submission of Amendment No. 11 to the Ministry for approval at its meeting of Tuesday September 6, 2016.

If you or your ministry staff have any questions about the attached documents, please contact Larisa Hutcheson, Interim Project Director, Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project at 250.360.3085 or lhutcheson@crd.bc.ca.

Yours sincerely,


Jane Bird
Chair, Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project Board

Attachment: Appendix A – Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan Amendment No. 11

cc: Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Barbara Desjardins, Chair, CRD Board
CRD Board of Directors
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Larisa Hutcheson, Interim Project Director, Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project