

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL

PURPOSE

This Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) outlines the plans of the Capital Regional District (CRD), and its municipal partners, to a program of management of liquid wastes from communities within the plan area for the next 25 years. Specific commitments designed to protect human health and the environment from the impacts of liquid wastes generated as a result of human activity are made in the following subject areas:

- source control
- management of inflow and infiltration
- wastewater and marine assessment
- stormwater quality management
- harbours environmental action
- management of trucked liquid wastes
- management of sewerage system overflows
- wastewater treatment and disposal for areas served by municipal collection systems
- wastewater treatment and disposal for areas not served by municipal collection systems

PLAN AREA

The plan area is shown on Figure 1.1 and includes the municipalities of Colwood, Esquimalt, Langford, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria and View Royal. A separate liquid waste management plan was completed in October 1996 for the Saanich Peninsula communities of Central Saanich, North Saanich and Sidney.

APPROVAL OF THE PLAN BY THE CRD BOARD

The CRD Board approved this plan on 12 July 2000.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The CRD Environment committee served as the Steering committee during the development of the plan and made recommendations on the content to the CRD Board. Through staff, it received recommendations from the Technical Advisory committee and the Public Advisory committee. Membership on the Environment committee included elected representatives from municipalities and electoral areas within the CRD, appointed from the Board members to sit on the committee.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In October 1991, the CRD Board approved the formation of a Technical Advisory committee (TAC) to provide technical advice on the content of the plan. The committee was initially formed during Stage 2

Figure 1.1 goes here.

and then re-established for Stage 3. During Stage 3, the committee met twelve times between 13 October 1998 and 13 June 2000. The committee received and reviewed each chapter of the plan and the recommendations of the Public Advisory committee (PAC), while reporting to the Environment committee through staff. Members of the committee included representatives from the following organizations:

- Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
- Environment Canada
- Department of National Defence
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs
- Capital Health Region
- technical staff members from the participating municipalities
- Esquimalt Nation
- Songhees Nation

Although the First Nations were requested to appoint committee members, no representatives of these groups attended any of the scheduled meetings during Stage 3. Copies of the letters of invitation to appoint representatives and copies of follow-up requests are provided in Appendix 1-A.

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In October 1998, the Board approved the re-establishment of a Public Advisory committee. The purpose of the committee was to comment and provide advice on the design and implementation of a fair and reasonable public consultation process, as well as to provide advice on the content of the plan. The terms of reference are provided in Appendix 1-B. The PAC received and reviewed each chapter of the plan and the recommendations of the Technical Advisory committee, while reporting to the Environment committee through staff. The PAC met twelve times over a period of a year and a half between 21 January 1999 and 08 June 2000. Committee members included the following:

- six members appointed by organizations (Township of Esquimalt, Fairfield Community Association, Esquimalt Nation, Songhees Nation, CRD Diversion Council, and the CRD Roundtable on the Environment)
- eight members of the public at large from the LWMP area
- a chair, who was a member of the Environment committee

Although the Songhees and Esquimalt nations were requested to appoint committee members, no representatives of First Nations attended any of the scheduled meetings. In addition to the original letters of invitation, the committee chair by personal contact, and by subsequent letter, encouraged First Nations participation. Copies of the letters of invitations to appoint representatives and copies of follow-up requests are provided in Appendix 1-B.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC, FIRST NATIONS AND MUNICIPAL CONSULTATION

During the preparation of stages 1 and 2, there were numerous opportunities for the public to provide input into the planning process. This is outlined in the Stage 2 document entitled *Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan Stage 2*.

The Stage 3 consultation process included appointment of a Public Advisory committee, two open houses, two presentations to members of all seven municipal councils involved in the plan and special presentations to the Victoria and Esquimalt councils. Staff members also responded to additional

requests for presentations and attendance to answer questions at municipal council meetings. Information about the plan was prepared in the form of fact sheets, which were available at municipal halls, libraries, open houses and on the CRD web site. Broadsheets were distributed to households near Macaulay and Clover points. The entire public consultation process is outlined in a report by Diana Butler of Urban Aspects Consulting Group entitled *Summary of Public Consultation Process*, dated May 2000.

Once approved by the Board, chapters of the LWMP were sent to each of the participating municipalities for review, comment and approval.

SPECIFIC MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, LANDS AND PARKS REQUIREMENTS

Outlined in the ministry's Stage 2 acceptance letter and authorization to proceed with Stage 3, dated 31 March 1998 (Appendix 1-C), were a number of requirements to be addressed during Stage 3, as follows:

Monitoring: "The monitoring program must be redeveloped using the CCME standards or local standards that are supported by the ministry. Ministry staff will work with your staff to establish a monitoring program and trigger points that both the CRD and the ministry can support."

Site selection: "A review of federal land holdings and public consultation and site selection procedures should commence immediately."

On-site sewage systems: "Onsite sewage systems must be addressed in the final plan."

Capital financing: "The CRD should review its funding options and submit a plan for financing the future construction of treatment facilities."

First Nations consultation: "The CRD must involve and consult with the appropriate First Nations during the stage 3 core plan development."

Timing: "The proposed time frame lacks interim deadlines and exceeds the timing set out by the Province in 1993. During the Stage 3 process and in conjunction with public consultation, the CRD shall review this time frame with the ministry and establish a mutually acceptable timetable."

In addition, the ministry also laid out a schedule for completion of the plan by 31 December 1998. The completion date was subsequently revised to 31 July 2000.

RESPONSE TO MINISTRY REQUIREMENTS

Monitoring: CRD staff and ministry staff have developed a trigger process which will provide an early warning of adverse changes in the environment around the outfalls at Clover Point and Macaulay Point. Within one year of approval, the plan commits to revise the monitoring program to account for the trigger process, in consultation with the Marine Monitoring Advisory Group and ministry staff.

Site selection: The plan commits to acquiring land at Clover Point and Macaulay Point to hold in reserve for provision of treatment, subject to the agreement of the owners to sell the land.

On-site sewage systems The plan outlines a process to develop and implement a program for on-site systems over a five-year period.

Capital financing: The plan contains a proposal for financing the future construction of wastewater treatment facilities and infrastructure upgrading.

First Nations consultation: The CRD requested that the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations each appoint a representative to both the Technical and Public Advisory committees. Although subsequent attempts were made to encourage participation, no representatives of First Nations attended any of the scheduled meetings.

Efforts to ensure First Nations participation on both committees are documented in Appendices 1-A and 1-B for the Technical Advisory and Public Advisory committees and in a report on the public consultation process entitled *Summary of Public Consultation Process* for the Public Advisory committee.

Timing: The plan commits to use of a scientific trigger process to determine, in advance, when the health of the receiving environment in the vicinity of the Clover Point and Macaulay Point outfalls is threatened and additional source control measures or additional wastewater treatment is required.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

The regional director, Environmental Protection Branch, Environment Canada, has advised that the federal *Fisheries Act* and the recently amended *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (1999) outline requirements for discharges to fish bearing waters and the management of toxic substances, respectively, that apply to all discharges, including bypasses and spills.