

July 15, 2014

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Mayors and Councils of CRD municipalities and Chiefs and Councils of neighbouring First Nations:

Capital Regional District Core Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Site Competition

As you are aware, the municipalities of Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, View Royal, Colwood and Langford collectively are participants of the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Service which is managed and operated by the Capital Regional District (CRD) in accordance with the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan (CALWMP). Some First Nations also participate in the service.

The Province has confirmed that the CRD is responsible to implement secondary wastewater treatment in the Core Area within timelines prescribed in the CALWMP, by the federally legislated deadline of 2020. Provincial and Federal funding agreements that provide approximately \$500 million toward the \$783 million project are contingent on meeting these timelines and the elements of the CALWMP.

While the approved CALWMP identifies McLoughlin Point as the location for the wastewater treatment facility, in April 2014, the Township of Esquimalt Council rejected the CRD's revised rezoning application to locate a wastewater treatment facility at McLoughlin Point. As a result, the CRD Board has directed a number of parallel initiatives to move forward on meeting the legislated deadline including:

1. Approach Esquimalt council to request reconsideration of McLoughlin Point as a site for the wastewater treatment facility based on a variety of new information, including a new offer for the Township to consider waiving the Township's capital cost of the Seaterra program.
2. Investigate potential alternative sites for a centralized wastewater treatment facility through a siting competition open to submissions from all municipal and First Nations councils.
3. Write to the Province to request that the Province take over responsibility for the implementation of wastewater treatment as currently planned in the region with the CRD contributing its part of the funding.

In addition, the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee has directed staff to respond to a motion to work collaboratively with Core Area municipalities and First Nations to potentially evaluate the feasibility and financial implications of implementing an alternative decentralized model for wastewater treatment.

This letter is the CRD's invitation to you and your council to respond to the competition for a suitable site or sites. The CRD desires a process to encourage interested municipalities and First Nations that may be willing to identify a site and support a rezoning process to allow a WWTP to be built on that site.

The Program requirements are (in no particular order):

1. For a WWTP the minimum site area required is 1.4 hectares (3.5 acres)
2. For a combined wastewater treatment plant and residual solids digestion facility the site area required is 3.25-4 hectares (8-10 acres).
3. The shape of the site must be suitable for the construction of the facility. For example, an irregularly shaped site or an elongated, narrow site would not be suitable.

In responding to this competition, the CRD requests that the following information be provided:

1. Location of the site
2. Legal description of the site
3. Current ownership of the site
4. Estimated cost to acquire the site
5. The amenity package required by your council for acceptance of the core area sewage treatment facility
6. Written support from council, including:
 - a. Support for rezoning the proposed site to allow a WWTP or a WWTP and a resource recovery center
 - b. Support for issuing a development permit, if applicable
 - c. Support for issuing a building permit

Under current CRD policy, land in the Agricultural Land Reserve is ineligible for consideration as a potential site.

Upon receipt of the submissions, the CRD will evaluate each proposed site(s) using an equally weighted triple bottom line analysis (environmental, economic, and social criteria). The CRD evaluation will include such factors as capital and operating costs to meet the Federal and Provincial regulations given the site location, proximity to residential neighbours, the cost of modifications to existing sewage infrastructure, the cost of conveyance infrastructure to the site for untreated sewage and from the site for treated effluent to an outfall, the cost to purchase the site, the cost of the amenity package and opportunities for resource recovery.

Any purchase of a site would be conditional and would be executed only after:

- Successful rezoning of the site to allow a WWTP or a WWTP and a resource recovery centre
- The issuance of a development permit
- The issuance of a building permit

Questions about the competition should be directed to Mr. Ted Robbins, General Manager, Integrated Water Services at trobbsins@crd.bc.ca or 250.360.3061. The CRD requests responses as soon as possible, but no later than September 30, 2014, in order to allow full consideration of the competition results and how the outcome will shape the path forward, given the project deadlines. All submissions should include 4 hard copies and one electronic copy and be addressed to:

Attention: Mr. Ted Robbins
General Manager, Integrated Water Services
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

We would like to thank municipal and First Nations councils for consideration of this request, and we look forward to an informative and collaborative process.

Sincerely,



Alastair Bryson
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

AB/jta

cc Board Members, CRD
Executive Leadership Team, CRD