



Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of July 21, 2016

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** July 7, 2016
From: Jonathan Tinney, Director Sustainable Planning and Community Development
Katie Hamilton, Director Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning
Subject: Initial Feedback Summary From Public Engagement On Wastewater Treatment

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct staff to:

1. Forward the summary of public input to the Capital Regional District in order to inform analysis being undertaken by the new wastewater Project Board
2. Work with the Project Board to determine policy considerations for siting of wastewater treatment facilities within the City of Victoria
3. Share the summary of public input and feedback with the public

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Victoria engaged the community to start the discussion on wastewater treatment in the municipality. Feedback was collected from the following three sources:

- More than 400 people at a public workshop
- A survey that ran from April 25 to May 9, 2016: 702 responses were received
- Emails sent to the City between March 10 and May 9, 2016: 126 emails

In general, although there was understanding of the need for wastewater treatment, the community expressed a lot of concern for potential impacts to communities from a treatment facility, with a high-level of concern for locating a facility at Clover Point. The community provided detailed feedback on key considerations for wastewater treatment and how those in charge of the project should engage with the residents in the Region.

Following public engagement, the Capital Regional District (CRD) announced a new direction for wastewater treatment based on recommendations from the Provincial government. Recommendations include establishing a Project Board with delegated authority to undertake all aspects of planning, site acquisition, project management and expenditures. Given the new approach to project governance, the feedback recently collected will be provided to the CRD and serve as an important record to help inform their planning and decision-making. The feedback will also help inform policy development and future engagement activities in order to support Council decision-making related to land use or rezoning for the purpose of sewage treatment in the City of Victoria.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to share with Council the feedback from the community about wastewater treatment in the municipality.

BACKGROUND

On March 10, 2016, the CRD decided to re-examine Clover Point as an option for a wastewater treatment facility. On Monday April 25, 2016 the City of Victoria held a meeting with the community to discuss the siting of a facility in the municipality. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the community about the City's role within the regional process and to discuss key issues and concerns to help guide future decision-making.

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During the public workshop and through the online survey, respondents were asked:

- What are the key issues and considerations for wastewater treatment in the City of Victoria?
 - What are your greatest concerns about wastewater treatment in Victoria?
 - What opportunities does wastewater treatment present in Victoria?
- What information do you need regarding wastewater treatment in Victoria?

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

The common theme was that a wastewater treatment facility should be located in an area where it will have minimal impact and should not be located in residential or high use areas. While there were a few respondents who supported Clover Point for a treatment facility, a significant majority of responses opposed that location for wastewater. Many respondents suggested that the original plan of a facility at McLoughlin Point was the best solution, while others recommended Rock Bay and other sites. Many respondents expressed concerns about current treatment and were eager to see a facility built as soon as possible. Some respondents did not agree that secondary treatment is required and that the primary treatment and ocean currents effectively treat the waste.

Much of the feedback included specific considerations for choosing a location for wastewater treatment.

Going forward, the community would like to see a transparent process and be informed about how decisions will be made, by whom and when. The public wants comprehensive scientific and technical information, including site specifications, feasibility and economic impact studies, and information about the difference between secondary and tertiary treatment.

Specific considerations for the location of a wastewater treatment facility include:

Cost

- Cost efficiency
- Cost recovery
- Loss of Federal and Provincial funding

Impacts

- Odour
- Noise
- Construction
- Traffic/trucking
- Proximity to residential
- Protection of parkland
- Loss of beauty
- Health & safety
- Property values

Technology

- Single plant option
- Resource recovery
- Capacity to expand
- Tertiary treatment
- Best available technology
- Stability from coastal erosion and tsunami risk
- Plan for sea level rise

Environmental protection

- Treating sewage is important
- Protect marine ecosystem and biodiversity
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Removing micro plastics and toxic substances before it goes into the ocean

Site location

- Consider alternatives:
 - McLoughlin Point
 - Rock Bay
 - Saanich
 - Other green light sites such as Beacon Hill Park

Site Design

- Aesthetics and design
- Buffer from residential

Economic impact

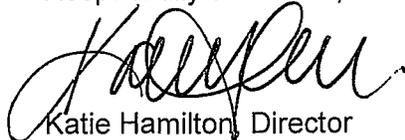
- Impact to tourism and business
- Public utility
- Public/private partnership
- Job creation
- First Nations participation
- Amenities

CONCLUSIONS

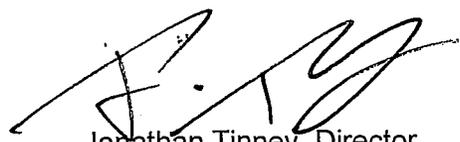
The feedback gathered from the community will provide valuable information to the new Project Board formed by the Provincial government and the CRD to help inform their decision-making regarding wastewater treatment in the region. It also provides clear inputs into policy considerations for future discussions with the Project Board on potential siting of facilities within the City of Victoria. This will support future engagement with the community and the CRD and will support Council decision-making on any wastewater treatment facilities that are proposed to be sited within the City.

It is also important that residents can see their input and how it was shared with Council and others. This report and all input will be provided broadly to the community to "close the loop" on our commitment to sharing all input received.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Hamilton, Director
Citizen Engagement and Strategic
Planning Department



Jonathan Tinney, Director
Sustainable Planning and Community
Development Department

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:



Date:

July 13, 2016

List of Attachments

- Email feedback re: Wastewater treatment
- Various correspondence