



Reference: 297626

MAR 30 2016

Barbara Desjardins, Chair
and Directors
Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard Street
PO Box 1000
Victoria BC V8W 2S6

Dear Chair Desjardins and Directors:

Thank you for your letter of March 17, 2016, regarding the Capital Regional District (CRD) Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan (CALWMP) Amendment No. 10. Pursuant to Section 24(5) of the *Environmental Management Act*, I hereby conditionally approve the following aspects of the CRD's CALWMP Amendment No. 10 request:

- 1) With respect to the timing of sewage treatment: Revise deadline of "by the end of 2018" to "by the end of 2020" for the provision of wastewater treatment.
- 2) With respect to biosolids processing: Replace "using a solids stabilization process to stabilize and reduce solids, kill pathogens and generate biogas of use onsite or offsite and preparing the biosolids for beneficial use" with "beneficial use of biosolids while potentially integrating solid and liquid waste functions at Hartland landfill."

I recognize that the CRD is no longer pursuing a single wastewater treatment facility at McLoughlin Point and that the process for identifying a new site and level of treatment is ongoing through the proposed Project Concept Call. It is expected that the outcomes of this process will ensure the timely achievement of providing secondary sewage treatment for the CRD core area no later than December 31, 2020.

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In accordance with Section 24(3)(b) of the *Environmental Management Act*, the following interim reports shall be submitted to me no later than December 31, 2016:

- A site acquisition report;
- A finalized business plan report;
- A report on Class B detailed capital and operating costs to implement the plan and costs per user both with and without government funding; and
- A preliminary schedule report for Amendment No. 11, which includes, but is not limited to, time frames for when the following activities/products will be initiated and completed: all Environmental Impact Study (EIS) work, resource recovery and beneficial use plan, review of commitments, Municipal Wastewater Regulation (MWR) registrations and other waste discharge authorizations associated with biosolids management.

In accordance with Section 24(3)(a) of the *Environmental Management Act*, I look forward to receiving the next plan amendment on or before December 31, 2017, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Finalizing the approach to sludge management;
- The results of construction EIS for each sewage facility;
- The results of EIS for each new discharge location;
- Completed applications for MWR registrations for each sewage treatment facility/discharge location;
- Completed applications for authorizations for biosolids management;
- Updated commitments (e.g., Section 5 – Management of Inflow and Infiltration and Control of Wastewater Overflows; Section 6 – System Configuration; Section 7 – Resource Recovery; Section 11 – Costs, Cost Sharing, Funding and Costs per User); and
- A consultation summary report.

As the CRD has committed in Amendment No. 10, please continue to engage the public and First Nations on all aspects of the CALWMP, including but not limited to details regarding wastewater treatment and biosolids processing, with respect to siting, technology, cost analysis environmental impacts and regulatory requirements.

Please continue to work with Ministry of Environment, Environmental Protection Division staff to ensure that all wastewater treatment facilities are registered under the MWR prior to December 31, 2017. Please also inform ministry staff of all beneficial uses of biosolids being contemplated to ensure that all necessary forms of authorization are obtained in advance of discharge.

Approval of Amendment No. 10 to the LWMP does not authorize entry upon, crossing over or use for any purpose of private or Crown lands or works, unless and except as authorized by the owner of such lands or works. The responsibility for obtaining such authority shall rest with the local government. This amendment is approved pursuant to the provisions of the *Environmental Management Act*, which asserts it is an offence to discharge waste without proper authorization. It is also the regional district's responsibility to ensure that all activities conducted under this plan amendment are carried out with regard to the rights of third parties and comply with other applicable legislation that may be in force.

Sincerely,



Mary Polak
Minister

cc: Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
AJ Downie, Director - Authorizations South, Regional Operations Branch,
Environmental Protection Division, Ministry of Environment
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, Capital Regional District
Larisa Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks and Environmental Services, Capital
Regional District

