



Making a difference...together

Capital Regional District

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File: 0400-50
Correspondence/Meetings/General

Washington State Senate
Washington State Legislature
Jay Inslee, Governor of Washington State

Dear Washington State Senate, Legislature and Governor,

RE: CORE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROJECT

This letter is being sent to you on behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD), Tourism Victoria and the Province of British Columbia in regards to the discussions and senate vote regarding Section 920 on employee travel to Victoria, British Columbia scheduled for March 10.

The Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan (CALWMP) is a 25-year plan under the Environmental Management Act that outlines the CRD's wastewater management strategies, including implementation of wastewater treatment. The CRD is responsible for implementing wastewater treatment for the Core Area by the federally mandated date of 2020. The federal government agreed to contribute up to \$253 million towards the project. The provincial government of British Columbia is the regulatory body overseeing the Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) and has committed to contributing up to \$248 million to the project after it becomes operational. Tourism Victoria is a supporter of the Core Area wastewater project and is committed to working with the CRD to move the project forward.

While the approved LWMP identifies a centralized location for the wastewater treatment facility, in April 2014, the host municipality did not approve the CRD's revised rezoning application. To evaluate new options in order to meet the federal legislated deadline of 2020, the CRD set out on an aggressive work plan to retain the federal and provincial funding. This work plan has included significant efforts towards community consultation engaging with our residents across the region to bring forward a socially acceptable solution as well as a focus on delivering an innovative and environmentally responsible and cost effective project.

Progress towards these deadlines and the wastewater treatment solution continues. In accordance with our timelines, the decision makers narrowed options for treating wastewater liquids last Friday. These options were referred to staff for further technical and financial analysis for discussion at the March 9 Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee (CALWMC) meeting. Following this meeting, the CRD will submit an amendment to the Liquid Waste Management Plan to the Province.

This progress follows more than a year and a half of accelerated planning to protect the federal and provincial funding that was secured for the project. In partnership with the public, the CALWMC has committed to delivering a sewage treatment and resource recovery system that is proven, innovative and maximizes the benefits for people and the planet – economic, social, and environmental – for the long term.

The scope of this phase of the project is to complete the Options Development Phase, by submitting an amendment to the Liquid Waste Management Plan and receiving conditional approval from the Minister of Environment. An approved plan amendment is required to be submitted to PPP Canada by March 31, 2016 as a condition of securing the PPP Canada portion of the federal funding grants.

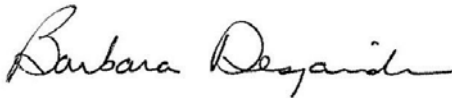
The next phase of the project is the Planning and Implementation Phase. This includes detailed site assessments such as environmental and social reviews, submission of detailed business cases (as may be required by funding agencies), indicative design, finalized cost sharing agreements and the procurement of infrastructure.

We will continue to work towards the timelines set out by our funders and keep our American constituents updated on our progress through monthly briefing notes sent on behalf of the Chair of the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee, as well as continued communication to our American Media contacts. We want to express how much we value our many partnerships and our strong economic relationship with our American neighbours. We encourage you to recognize the progress we have made in this last year of this planning process. Washington is our No. 1 trading partner, and as stated by British Columbia's Minister of Environment Mary Polak, Washington residents can rest assured that Greater Victoria will have sewage treatment in the near future.

The CRD, with support from the Province of British Columbia and Tourism Victoria, is committed to delivering an innovative project that provides benefit to the environment, responds to our changing climate and adds value to the residents and businesses of our communities and those visiting our region.

Thank you for your care, concern and interest in the project. We encourage you to watch for updates via our website coreareawastewater.ca.

Sincerely,



Barbara Desjardins
Chair
Capital Regional District Board



Lisa Helps
Chair, Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee
Victoria Mayor



Bill Lewis
Chair
Tourism Victoria



Mary Polak
Minister of Environment
Province of British Columbia

