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**REPORT TO CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 05 SEPTEMBER 2007**

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**SUBJECT**      **CORE AREA AND WEST SHORE WASTEWATER TREATMENT – INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PRELIMINARY STUDY**

**PURPOSE**

To update the committee on an integrated resource management preliminary study, which is being undertaken by the BC Ministry of Community Services, and to determine what role, if any, Capital Regional District (CRD) staff should take in the project.

**BACKGROUND**

At the 25 July 2007 Core Area Liquid Waste Management committee meeting, staff brought forward a report on developing terms of reference for resource recovery and beneficial use, along with a review of our treatment system approach, jointly with the provincial government.

The recommendation that was approved by the committee is "that terms of reference be developed and discussions with the provincial government for partnering be held to conduct a study on the beneficial reuse and resource recovery opportunities, including an evaluation of our current representation approach as compared to a broader decentralized system."

While this joint effort had been discussed with ministry staff, when staff contacted provincial staff, we were advised that the Ministry of Community Services would be undertaking its own study on the feasibility of a more sustainable and integrated approach to wastewater management and resource recovery. The objectives of its study are to:

1. evaluate the potential to advance provincial climate change and green city project objectives (including energy and water conservation) and to optimize taxpayer investment by integrating wastewater management with the management of energy, stormwater, drinking water, rain water and solid waste, including resource recovery;
2. evaluate whether this alternative approach is both feasible and viable (including a strong sense of the potential business case) over the long term (including long-term operating impacts and flexibility to deal with future changes in the population and environment); and
3. propose an action plan for implementation.

The project, once finalized, will be managed by a strategic steering committee and will also involve a study committee. A draft report is expected by the end of September, with the final report due mid-October 2007.

While CRD staff have had no input in the discussions leading up to the project development, we have been invited to participate in the steering and working committees. The goal of the project is to focus at a high level of sustainable wastewater management with a provincial focus and may include some high level opportunities in the Capital Region for resource recovery and reuse.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. That the CRD fully participate in the integrated resource recovery study and that the CRD resource recovery and beneficial use study be deferred until the integrated resource management preliminary study is concluded.

2. That the CRD not participate and staff prepare detailed terms of reference for the CRD resource recovery and beneficial reuse study and proceed and that the project be funded entirely by the CRD. Included in the study would be an evaluation of our current representation approach as compared to a broader decentralized system.
3. That the market, in the eventual procurement process, be tasked solely with the goal of incorporating innovative resource recovery and beneficial reuse opportunities.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The integrated resource management preliminary study is funded by the province with contributions from not-for-profit entities, including some public sector agencies, such as universities. However, if the CRD is to have meaningful participation in the project committees, there will be a cost of having our consultants, such as Dr. Bruce Jank and Peter Adams, involved in the study committee.

Proceeding with a detailed CRD resource recovery and reuse study is estimated to cost approximately \$275,000. It is anticipated that this would be recoverable as a project cost but would be funded presently from a capital borrowing bylaw.

### **INTER-GOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Beneficial reuse and integrated resource recovery options are of broad interest across the public sector. The CRD should participate with the provincial government on this work. While this study will be a very high level review, it is anticipated that a more detailed evaluation for product reuse will follow. Not participating in this study could possibly duplicate efforts if the CRD commissioned its own consultant.

### **SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS**

The provincial integrated resource management study is intended to be a very high level study with a provincial focus; however, it may utilize the CRD as an example to illustrate applicability of approaches. Depending on the outcome of the study, a more detailed review may be required in Phase II.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Capital Regional District (CRD) fully participate in the integrated resource recovery study and that the CRD resource recovery and beneficial use study be deferred until the integrated resource management preliminary study is concluded.

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CAO Concurrence

### **COMMENTS**

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