



**REPORT TO CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 08 APRIL 2009**

SUBJECT **CORE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT – STAGE 2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES**

PURPOSE

To seek approval to undertake the marine environmental baseline monitoring (i.e., data collection) required for the Outfall – Stage 2 Environmental Impact Studies (EIS).

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) deadline for receiving the revised core area Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) is 31 December 2009. One of the requirements for the LWMP submission is for the Capital Regional District (CRD) to have completed EIS, as defined by the BC Municipal Sewage Regulation, for each new discharge (outfall) location.

The CRD has already undertaken Stage 1 EIS; i.e., compiling existing information and preliminary oceanographic modelling for two of the most likely marine outfall locations (Saanich East/Finnerty Cove and West Shore/Albert Head). The Stage 2 EIS includes marine/freshwater environmental baseline monitoring which will require knowledge of where the wastewater treatment facilities and associated outfalls are to be located. At least two years of water column monitoring results are needed to ensure that seasonal variation is adequately assessed while the sediment, oceanographic and biological monitoring can be conducted later in the overall program.

It is anticipated that for most of the proposed outfall locations, the two years of Stage 2 marine/freshwater environmental monitoring will fit well with construction timelines. The monitoring programs could be tendered as soon as sites are selected in the summer of 2009 allowing start-up as early as the third quarter of 2009.

The proposed Saanich East/Finnerty Cove location, however, has potential to be the first project constructed in 2010. MOE staff feel there is urgency to begin the Stage 2 EIS work, particularly for this location, and have recommended that the baseline water column monitoring start as soon as possible (i.e., spring 2009).

ALTERNATIVES

1. Proceed with the Stage 2 EIS monitoring program at Saanich East/Finnerty Cove outfall location as suggested by MOE to expedite the construction of the Saanich East wastewater system.
2. Proceed with the Stage 2 EIS monitoring programs for both the Saanich East/Finnerty Cove and West Shore/Albert Head outfall locations at the same time to provide timely completion of monitoring for both.
3. Do not proceed with the Stage 2 EIS monitoring at either site until they are selected and approved.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The baseline water column monitoring component is expected to include seasonal monitoring and is estimated to cost \$18,750 per season per site with four seasonal sampling events totaling \$75,000 per year per site. These costs were estimated based on preliminary discussions with MOE staff and CRD consultants. More accurate costs will be available after the EIS Stage 2 sampling plan has been more fully developed and tenders for the work have been received. Overall, these sampling costs were included in the projected \$800,000 “outfalls consultant” budget that was presented to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee on 26 November 2008 as part of the Core Area and West Shore Wastewater Treatment Project 2009 Project Budget (B(8) of staff report #EES 08-97).

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The Stage 2 EIS monitoring programs for the proposed Saanich East/Finnerty Cove and West Shore/Albert Head marine outfalls should proceed as soon as possible to allow for timely completion.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee approve:

1. proceeding with the Stage 2 EIS monitoring programs for the proposed Saanich East/Finnerty Cove and West Shore/Albert Head marine outfalls; and
2. the program costs be funded from “outfalls consultant” budget of \$800,000 identified as part of the overall Core Area and West Shore Wastewater Treatment Project 2009 Project Budget.

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Concurrence

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