

**REPORT TO CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2012**

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**SUBJECT MOTION FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

**BACKGROUND**

On November 13, 2012, Oak Bay council passed the following motion regarding sewage treatment:

**Whereas** the District of Oak Bay has a strong commitment to environmental stewardship of our air, land and water; and

**Whereas** concerns have been raised about the potential detrimental environmental impact of the CRD's proposed land-based liquid waste treatment project; and

**Whereas** the benefits of the CRD's proposed land-based liquid waste treatment project have been questioned by leading scientists; and

**Whereas** there has been no independent comparative environmental impact assessment of the current and proposed system for disposing of liquid waste;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the CRD, in collaboration with and with the consent of the federal and provincial governments, jointly fund a full environmental study that will assess the comparative environmental impact of the current process and proposed process for disposing of liquid waste before the CRD plans are finalized; and

**Be it further resolved** that a copy of this motion be sent to the Prime Minister, the Premier, the Chair of the CRD and six other communities participating in the CRD Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee.

The motion from Oak Bay council requests a study of the comparative environmental impact of the current and proposed process of disposing of liquid waste before Capital Regional District (CRD) plans are finalized. Current CRD monitoring programs have collected a significant amount of data on the impact of the current disposal process. Baseline data are currently being collected to allow for a comparative assessment after land based treatment is implemented. It is known that secondary treatment will reduce the carbonaceous biological oxygen demand, suspended solids and emerging substances of concern being discharged into the marine environment. It is also known that reversal of the impacts of the current discharges will occur over time. The CRD has undertaken detailed environmental impact studies of each aspect of the land based sewage treatment proposal, including carbon emissions during construction and operation of the system.

Given the need for the agreement of the Federal and Provincial governments to jointly fund the study, the time frame to develop a terms of reference, to issue a request for proposals, evaluate and select the successful proponent, an environmental study could not be completed before CRD plans are finalized. Indicative design for the McLoughlin treatment facility is in progress with a request for qualifications planned for early 2013 followed by the request for proposals (RFP) in June 2013. To avoid uncertainty in the market place it is essential that any doubt about the CRD's commitment to the project must be expelled before issuing the RFP. Proponents will be investing several million dollars preparing proposals and must have certainty that a contract will be awarded.

Even if such an environmental study could be undertaken before the CRD plans are finalized, regardless of the outcome of the study, the CRD would still be required to comply with the Provincial order and the Federal Regulation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee receive this report for information.

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J.A. (Jack) Hull, P.Eng., MBA  
Interim Program Director  
Core Area Wastewater Treatment Program

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