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**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 01 DECEMBER, 2010**

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**SUBJECT      SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS (SGI) WATER AND SEWER FACILITIES INVENTORY**

**ISSUE**

To highlight the need for an SGI service/infrastructure sustainability plan as part of a comprehensive plan for all Electoral Areas.

**BACKGROUND**

Over the years, CRD has gradually acquired water and sewer facilities throughout the SGI electoral area from improvement districts, regulated utilities, or other third parties. As a responsible steward of these facilities, the CRD needs to establish a service/infrastructure sustainability plan to ensure the water and sewer system services consistently meet regulatory standards. This plan needs to be based on a foundation of reliable data regarding all components of the current infrastructure, including but not necessarily limited to: treatments plants, dams, reservoirs, pump stations, manholes, pipes, and wells.

While the CRD has financial records on the costs of acquiring and maintaining this infrastructure, its data on the status/condition of all the component parts is lacking. There is a substantial gap in the infrastructure inventory. Thus, the ability to make informed and fiscally responsible planning decisions affecting infrastructure sustainability is compromised. Well informed planning is critical to managing resources effectively in this context where the infrastructure is decentralized and geographically isolated; effective scheduling of maintenance and upgrading is paramount given the cost of servicing by Vancouver Island-based contractors.

In combination with the CRD's geographic information (GIS) and maintenance management (MMS) systems, the proposed SGI water and sewer inventory will empower the CRD to develop a robust service/infrastructure sustainability plan.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. That \$100,000 be allocated from the SGI portion of the CRD Community Works Fund to develop a comprehensive SGI Electoral Area water and sewer facilities inventory.
2. That an SGI Electoral Area water and sewer facilities inventory not be developed.

**IMPLICATIONS**

**Social Implications**

The island's growing population will continue to exert pressure on the water and sewer infrastructure; furthermore, this well informed population has rising expectations of quality service consistent with regulatory standards.

Environmental Implications

The changing regulatory environment is demanding higher performance standards for water and sewer facilities. The CRD needs to meet those standards in a sustainable manner through well-informed infrastructure management decisions.

Financial Implications

The SGI portion of the CRD Community Works Fund can provide the \$100,000 funding required. This project is considered eligible under the terms of the Gas Tax Agreement.

**CONCLUSION**

The CRD needs to manage the electoral areas' water and sewer infrastructure in a sustainable manner. Currently, it is lacking the data to develop a service/infrastructure sustainability plan for the SGI; thus a comprehensive water and sewer infrastructure inventory for this electoral area is required. In concert with the CRD's GIS and MMS systems, this inventory would add the needed functionality to enable robust planning and implementation decisions to meet the water and sewer service needs of SGI residents in a sustainable manner.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Electoral Area Services Committee recommend to the CRD Board:

That \$100,000 be allocated from the SGI portion of the CRD Community Works Fund to develop a comprehensive SGI Electoral Area water and sewer facilities inventory.

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