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**REPORT TO SALT SPRING ISLAND LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL LOCAL SERVICE COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF FRIDAY, 23 MAY 2008**

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**SUBJECT**      **COMPOSTING PILOT - STRATEGY TO PROCEED**

**PURPOSE**

To present to the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service committee (SSILW) for consideration, a request to proceed with construction of certain works necessary for a successful pilot compost operation to be carried out.

**BACKGROUND**

At its meeting of 05 March 2008, the committee directed Capital Regional District (CRD) staff to proceed with implementation of a pilot compost project at the Burgoyne site and to retain a consultant to review the overall septage dewatering process. Staff have been unable to locate a consultant for the latter portion of the project within the project budget however a summary of improvements necessary for the process has been developed internally and will be the subject of a separate report. With respect to implementation of the compost pilot, staff wish to obtain the approval of the committee to carry out specific works necessary for the success of the pilot project. The works and funding sources are outlined in this report.

**Design Issues / Proposal**

Some issues have been raised by the site's neighbours as a consequence of the proposal to the Islands Trust to approve a Development Variance Permit (DVP) for the compost facility. Some of these issues raised pertain specifically to the pilot compost proposal while others relate more to the existing site operations. Specific issues that can be addressed at this time include better control of leachate, to avoid the potential contamination of drainages in the immediate area of the site, reduced odour production, general site cleanup and a more organized operation. Specific objectives of this phase of the project would be:

- Provide a location for mixing sludge and amendment which is under cover and can be enclosed to contain odour.
- Extend the mixing area containment such that any seepage from the process can be recovered without fear of discharge to adjoining lands or water courses.
- Provide an odour control system for the building and for the press area.
- Provide a method to capture any overflow of the press.

To meet these objectives on a short term basis during the set up and operation of the pilot facility, staff propose the following works:

1. Construction of a 186m<sup>2</sup> pad with concrete apron walls to extend the present mixing slab.
2. Construction of a 186m<sup>2</sup> building (barn construction) to provide cover for the expanded concrete slab.
3. Construction of a biofilter for odour abatement arising from the new mixing building and press trailer.
4. provision of drip tray beneath the press trailer to capture overflow from the press.

The proposed mixing building and the existing press trailer will remain in the original work area. As such neither facility will be set back the full 60m from the property line. There has been suggestion that the land at the property line is tributary to local seasonal drainages hence the proposal will not address these concerns. This is however a temporary situation pending construction of the new full scale compost facility. At the time of construction of the permanent facility, the dewatering press and the mixing process will be transferred to the new facility. Given the enhanced drainage for the facility, the potential for spills of liquids which might migrate to

local watercourses is diminished significantly.

The facility constructed under this proposal will continue to be of service for storage of vehicles and equipment on site once the mixing process is moved to the new facility. There is some urgency to initiate construction of the facility. Dewatered material continues to be disposed of to the Hartland landfill on Vancouver Island until the compost operation is underway.

**Costs / Funding**

The cost for the modifications detailed will total approximately \$95,000. The project cost for the structure is estimated at \$70,000 and the remaining works at \$25,000. Funding sources for the project is proposed as follows:

From federal gas tax funds	\$30,000
From Solid Waste program transfer	\$30,000
Funds remaining in capital project	\$29,000
Funds from contingency	<u>\$6,000</u>
Total	\$95,000

The regional director for Salt Spring Island, has proposed to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, funding up to \$30,000 towards the project from the 2008 community works fund. The funds will not be approved prior to the June meeting of the Board.

The Solid Waste division has offered to support the project which ultimately will result in diversion of approximately 700 tonnes of material from the Hartland Landfill operation each year, through a contribution of \$30,000.

The budget contingency for 2008 stands at \$48,166.

As work on the building should be initiated as soon as possible and as the funding from the gas tax fund will not be approved prior to the end of June, it is recommended the committee approve staff to proceed with the project on the following basis:

Phase 1 Works – Building Construction, \$70,000 funded as follows:

Solid Waste Transfer	\$30,000
Capital Project	\$29,000
Contingency	* <u>\$11,000</u>
Total	\$70,000

Contingency funds required may be reduced to \$6,000 if Gas Tax funds approval is received prior to the funds being needed.

Phase 2 – Works \$25,000, funded from gas tax funds

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. That the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service committee approve a project to carry out Pilot Project Phase 1 and Phase 2 works for construction of an interim in-vessel mixing building at an estimated cost of \$95,000 and fund the works as follows:

1. Solid Waste division contribution \$30,000
2. Capital funds on hand \$29,000
3. Community Works Fund, SSI \$30,000

With the remainder of the funds necessary for the project from the 2008 contingency fund.

2. That the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Committee approve a project to carry out Phase 1 and Phase 2 works for a pilot composting program when all funds necessary to complete the project are approved and received for the project.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The project is drawing funds from four sources, the Community Works Fund for Salt Spring Island, the Solid Waste division of CRD, the remaining capital funds established by the committee earlier in the project, and contingency funds set aside in the 2008 operating budget. It is proposed to commence the project by construction of the mixing building at an estimated cost of \$70,000 funding for which will be primarily from the transfer of funds from the Solid Waste division and the existing capital fund. The remaining \$11,000 may need to be drawn from contingency except that if gas tax funding is approved prior to the funds being fully expended, the contingency requirements will drop to \$6,000. Should the gas tax funds not be approved for the project, the additional funds will need to be drawn from the 2008 contingency fund. Establishment of the structure will permit composting to proceed by July of this year. If the project does not proceed as planned, there will be additional costs for hauling of waste solids to the Hartland landfill. The 2008 budget was based on termination of hauling for the last six months of the year.

**SUMMARY**

To proceed with the pilot composting operation and in consideration of the need to undertake mixing of septage and amendment within a well drained structure, to eliminate discharge of odour and leachate, a temporary building is proposed. The building will house only the mixing equipment at this time and will serve on the site in the long term for equipment storage. The cost of the building, with barn type construction, is estimated at \$70,000. A further cost to provide odour control to the building and to construct other leachate containment is estimated at \$25,000. Funding for the works is proposed from capital works on hand, contingency funds from the 2008 operating budget, a contribution from the CRD Solid Waste division and a contribution from the 2008 community works fund for Salt Spring Island. Construction of the project is to be phased.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service committee approve a project to carry out Pilot Project Phase 1 and Phase 2 works for construction of an interim in-vessel mixing building at an estimated cost of \$95,000 and fund the works as follows:

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|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Solid Waste division contribution | \$30,000 |
| 2. Capital funds on hand             | \$29,000 |
| 3. Community Works Fund, SSI         | \$30,000 |

With the remainder of the funds necessary for the project from the 2008 Contingency fund.

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