Making a difference...together

WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Notice of Meeting on **Wednesday, February 4, 2015 @ 9 am**
Goldstream Conference Room, 2nd Floor, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

D. Spinner	R. Mersereau	M. Thompson
M. Doehnel	E. Dyck	P. Elworthy
M. Gingras	S. Johnson	B. June
R. Neuman	G. Orr	J. Rogers
F. Schultz	B. Wilkes	M. Williams

AGENDA

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Adoption of Minutes of November 5, 2014

3. Presentations
   - No one has registered to speak.

4. Review of Task/Action Items

5. Regional Sustainability Strategy Stakeholder Input (Report #WAC 2015-01)

6. Leech Water Supply Area Open House (Report #WAC 2015-02)

7. 2015 Regional Water Educational Campaign (Report #WAC 2015-03)

8. Schedule of Municipal Council Orientation Sessions

9. Questions from Committee Members

10. New Business

11. Adjournment

To ensure a quorum is present, please call Margaret at 250.474.9606 if you or your alternate cannot attend.

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held Tuesday, November 5, 2014 at 9 am in the Goldstream Conference Room,
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: M. Marchenski (for E. Dyck), P. Elworthy, M. Gingras, B. June, F. Schultz, D. Spinner, M. Thompson, B. Wilkes, M. Williams
Staff: T. Robbins, A. Constabel, R. Walker, H. Dale, M. Montague (Recorder)
ABSENT: D. Murdock, J. Rogers, M. Doehnel, R. Mersereau, R. Neuman

The meeting was called to order at 9 am.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by M. Williams and **SECONDED** by M. Thompson,
that the Water Advisory Committee approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

MOVED by M. Williams and **SECONDED** by M. Thompson,
that the Water Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the meeting held September 9, 2014.

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATIONS

- There were no presentations.

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair remarked as follows:

- He attended the last meeting of the Regional Water Supply Commission.

5. REVIEW OF TASK/ACTION ITEMS

An updated task/action list is attached. A brainstorming session will be held at the next informal meeting of the Water Advisory Committee to review the task list content and format.

6. SEPTEMBER 21 WILDFIRE EVENT AND WILDFIRE PREPARENESS

A. Constabel introduced R. Walker, Manager, Wildfire, Security & Emergency Response. She then spoke to the report.

MOVED by M. Williams and **SECONDED** by M. Thompson,
that the Water Advisory Committee receive the staff report for information.

CARRIED

7. MOTION REGARDING DISASTER PLANNING

T. Robbins reported on the current work plan underway on risk and disaster planning.

8. RESULTS OF BUDGET DISCUSSIONS FOR 2015

T. Robbins provided an update on the budget discussions for 2015. It was suggested that conversations be held with local Chambers of Commerce regarding the rate impact on the local business community.

9. PRICING CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

T. Robbins provided an update on the work currently underway by the Communications Coordinator on this campaign.

10. FIRST NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE

There has been no response to letters sent to First Nations requesting a representative to sit on the Water Advisory Committee. Further discussions will be held with the Manager of Aboriginal Initiatives at the CRD on this item.

11. LEECH WATERSHED USAGE – NEXT STEPS

T. Robbins reported on the Leech watershed usage with First Nations. T'Sou-ke Nation has agreed to develop a Terms of Reference and some form of Protocol Agreement. First Nations have advised they would like to take the lead on both these items. Staff are working on open house materials and an educational piece on this issue.

12. QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There were no further questions from committee members.

13. NEW BUSINESS

100th Anniversary – A subcommittee of Water Advisory Committee members will be formed to assist with this item.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
T A S K L I S T

	TASK	ACTION	STATUS
1.	Food sustainability and water. Write a letter to PAC groups in the region requesting information on what they are doing with respect to the relationship between water and food sustainability.	M. Doehnel/B. Wilkes *To be discussed at the October Working Goup meeting*	Look at the food sustainability section of the RSS
2.	Presentation on disaster planning – staff report with technical report	T. Robbins	2015
3.	Presentation on jurisdictional issues including perspectives from both DND and First Nations	M. Gingras	TBD
4.	Multiple uses in the watershed	M. Thompson	A follow up meeting to be scheduled with S. Hallatt

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Agenda Item 5
REPORT #WAC 2015-01

REPORT TO WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

SUBJECT **REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY STAKEHOLDER INPUT**

ISSUE

To update the Water Advisory Committee on the Regional Sustainability Strategy process and seek feedback on the draft strategy.

BACKGROUND

Since December 2012, Capital Regional District (CRD) staff have been working closely with local municipal staff (primarily planning directors) and staff from provincial and federal agencies to prepare a draft Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS). An early draft of the RSS was provided to the CRD Board at its October 2014 meeting. The Board has authorized staff to seek broad public, stakeholder and municipal council feedback on the draft strategy beginning January 2015. An on-line feedback form was launched on January 15, 2015 and will be available for input until February 15, 2015.

The CRD Board determined that the review of the 2003 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) should give high priority to addressing climate change and that the RGS should transition into a RSS. As a result, the RSS has a broader scope than the RGS: for example, it integrates transportation and land use planning, addresses climate change, food security, and social equity. The increased scope of the draft RSS is in response to public input and Board direction. The document is structured so as to provide clarity regarding the implementing roles of the CRD, local municipalities and provincial and federal agencies.

Throughout the province, regional growth strategies vary in scope and level of detail in response to local circumstances and community expectations. Through the engagement process, the CRD is seeking input from stakeholder groups, such as the Water Advisory Committee, as to where along the spectrum of minimum scope/high level to more expansive/prescriptive they would like the RSS to be, specifically with respect to the six objectives, policy statements, associated actions, and targets of the draft RSS that have a water supply reference or implication (the draft RSS Targets Backgrounder is attached for reference).

The full draft RSS document, the on-line feedback form, the RSS targets backgrounder, and a RSS frequently asked questions document are available on the CRD website. Staff are aiming to report back to the Board in April 2015 on what is heard from the engagement process. In April, staff will seek Board direction on preparing a proposed bylaw which could be read in early summer with a public hearing in August. Staff anticipate that the formal 60-day municipal referral process would occur during September and October 2015.

CONCLUSION

CRD staff are seeking broad public, stakeholder and municipal council feedback on the draft RSS by February 15, 2015. As one of the key stakeholder groups in the region tasked with providing advice on Regional Water Supply matters, the Water Advisory Committee has an opportunity to submit feedback on the draft RSS.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Advisory Committee:

1. Receive the staff report for information; and
2. Prepare a feedback submission to the CRD with respect to drinking water supply aspects of the draft RSS, and report back to the Regional Water Supply Commission on the Committee's submission.

Ted Robbins, B.Sc., C.Tech
General Manager, Integrated Water Services

TR:mm
Attachments:

Draft RSS - Targets Backgrounder

To be read in conjunction with the Draft CRD Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) Feedback Form.

Part C: Targets

Targets are a concrete way to represent what we mean by the vision and are an important tool for measuring progress towards achieving the vision. It will take all of us – the CRD, local, provincial and federal governments, as well as community groups, businesses and individuals – to transform the region by choosing policies, programs and lifestyles that support the targets. Your input will help political decision-makers decide how ambitious the targets should be.

All targets relate to a 2038 timeline, unless stated otherwise.

1. Climate & Greenhouse Gases

1.1 GHG Emissions Reduction Target

- *By 2020 reduce region-wide community-based greenhouse gas emissions by 33%*
- *By 2038 reduce region-wide community-based greenhouse gas emissions by 61%*

Why is this target being proposed?

The need to significantly reduce total GHG emissions is urgent to reduce the impacts of climate change. The Capital Region is especially vulnerable to increased severe weather events, sea level rise, flooding, and drought.

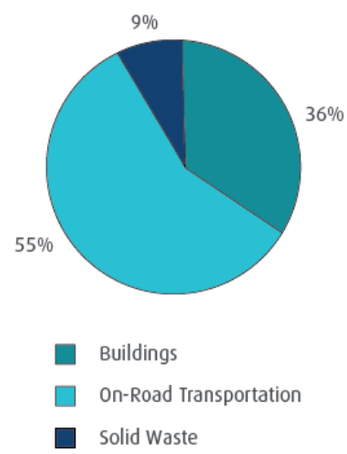
Current context

Between 2007 and 2010, region-wide community-based GHG emissions remained the same – they neither increased nor decreased. Current status is based on the best available information provided in the Province of BC's 2007 and 2010 Community Energy & Emissions Inventories (CEEI, **2014**). CEEIs include emissions from transportation, buildings and waste. They do not include marine, rail or air transportation within local government boundaries.

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:

- Reduce energy demand
- Increase energy efficiency
- Reduce waste and use it as an energy source
- Encourage fuel-switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources

2010 GHG Emissions Sources (Total for the CRD)



Source: Community Energy & Emissions Inventory (CEEI), Province of BC

2.1

Growth Centers and Employment Land in the Growth Management Planning Area

2. Communities

2.1 Dwelling Unit Growth Target

Locate 30% of new growth (dwelling units) in walkable, bikeable, transit serviced communities that provide a variety of housing types and tenures close to places of work, shopping, learning, recreation, parks and green space.

Why is this target being proposed?

Locating more housing in close proximity to jobs, shopping, learning, recreation, parks and green spaces allows for: more convenient and cost-effective transit service, more walking and cycling and increased viability of local businesses. The Draft RSS proposes focusing growth in areas characterized by the most intense forms of urban development. (See map above.) Focusing growth in centres helps keep infrastructure costs affordable, reduces development pressure on rural and natural resource lands and supports equitable access to housing, services and amenities for all residents.

Current context

Between 2003-2014, 28 % of dwelling unit growth within the region was located within a Growth Centre. The Growth Containment Area (GCA) is a defined area within the region where urban growth is to be contained and where full urban services can be provided. Within the GCA, the draft RSS proposes that growth be focused in key locations called Growth Centres.

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:

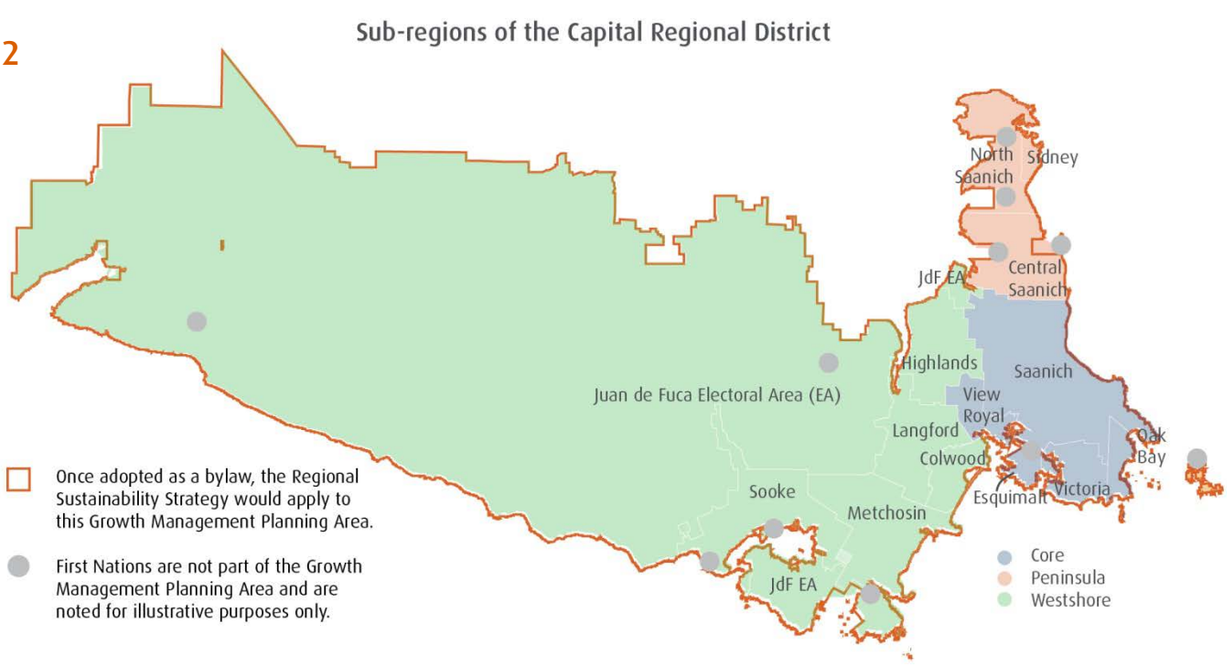
- Focus medium to high density residential employment development in Growth Centres
- Focus public investment to support growth and enhance livability in Growth Centres

The infographic above shows approximate locations for each Growth Centre:

The **Growth Containment Area (GCA)** is a defined area within the region where urban growth is to be contained and where full urban services can be provided. Within the GCA, growth will be focused in key locations called Growth Centres.

Four types of **Growth Centres** are identified, reflecting a range of land use densities and mixes. These areas are intended for the most intense forms of urban development in the region and are intended to evolve as complete communities with a range of housing types, jobs, services and amenities.

2.2



2.2 Jobs/Population Target

- *Achieve a jobs/population ratio of:*
    - *0.61 in Core Area*
    - *0.53 in Saanich Peninsula*
    - *0.36 in West Shore*

Higher ratios mean that there are more jobs located close to housing.

Why is this target being proposed?

Locating jobs and housing in close proximity supports the vitality and development of complete communities. It will also likely reduce trip distances, especially for the journey to work, which in turn has numerous benefits:

- walking, cycling and transit become more attractive travel choices
- access to jobs is more affordable and convenient, especially for low-to-moderate income households
- GHG emissions, poor air quality, road congestion and transportation fuel consumption and costs are reduced
- overall quality of life can be improved due to shorter commute times.

Current context

In 2014, the jobs/population ratio by sub-region was:

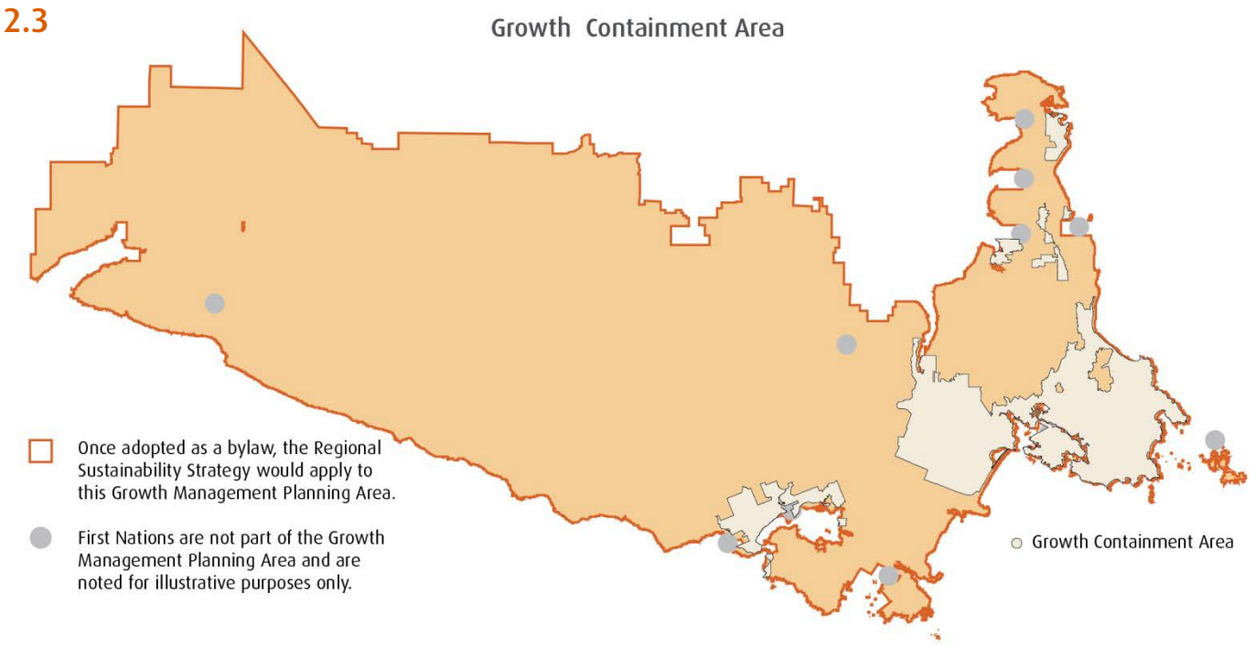
- 0.59 in the Core Area
- 0.53 in the Saanich Peninsula
- 0.31 in the West Shore

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:

- Support provision of infrastructure and services to accommodate employment growth in Growth Centres and on General Employment Lands.
- Protect lands for industrial purposes, including marine-based industries.

The infographic above identifies the three sub-regions of the CRD.

2.3



2.3 Growth Management Target

- *Locate 90% of new dwelling units within the Growth Containment Area*

Why is this target being proposed?
Containing growth within the Growth Containment Area was a key foundation for managing growth within the region and reducing sprawl. The 2003 Regional Growth Strategy set a target of 90% of new dwelling units being located within the Regional Urban Containment Servicing Policy Area (RUCSPA).

Current context
From 2003-2014, approximately 80% of new dwelling units were within the Growth Containment Area. Lands in rural areas (outside the Growth Containment Area), are already zoned and have existing development potential.

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target:

- Sewer services may only be provided to lands within the Growth Containment Area with exceptions only for pressing public health, public safety or environmental reasons.
- Development potential is to be capped to that in place in local Official Community Plans in place at the time of adoption of the Regional Sustainability Strategy.
- Please note that once adopted, the Regional Sustainability Strategy and its policies and actions will not apply to First Nations Reserves or future Treaty Settlement Lands.

The infographic above identifies the location of the Growth Containment Area in the Draft RSS.

3. Mobility

3.1 Active Transportation and Transit Target

- *Achieve a transportation system that sees 42% of all trips made by walking, cycling, and transit.*

Why is this target being proposed?
One way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions due to travel within the region is to encourage people to use modes of transportation that produce few or no emissions. Walking and cycling produce no emissions; transit produces few. Increasing the share of trips made by walking, cycling and transit increases access to jobs, goods, services and amenities for all residents. Walking and cycling also provide significant health benefits.

Current context
The way people travel throughout the region has not changed significantly since 2001 (see Exhibit A.7). In 2011, approximately 23% of daily trips were made by walking, cycling and transit.

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:

- Increase investment in pedestrian and cycling facilities
- Focus growth in communities already supported by high levels of transit services.

EXHIBIT A.7 Daily CRD Mode Shares

TRAVEL MODE	2001	2006	2011*
Auto Driver and Passenger	78%	78%	77%
Transit	7%	7%	6%
Cycling	3%	4%	3%
Walking	12%	10%	13%
Other	1%	2%	1%

NOTES

Trips within regional planning area and by population over 11 years of age.

Source: 2011 CRD Household Travel Survey – Daily Travel Characteristics Report

* Some variation from previous surveys is likely due to considerable methodological changes.

Source: CRD Regional Transportation Plan

3.2 Zero Emission Vehicles Target

- *Achieve a community vehicle fleet composed of 72% zero emission vehicles*

Why is this target being proposed?
Transportation is the most significant cause of GHG emissions in the region. Shifting to more sustainable transportation modes (walking, cycling and transit) and reducing frequency and lengths of trips, will not, on their own, be sufficient to reduce transportation-related GHG emissions to meet proposed targets. Switching to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) would speed reduction in GHG emissions because on average, the fleet of consumer cars turns over every 13 years. Other actions that will reduce GHG emissions, such as good land use planning, green building standards and retrofits, and infrastructure and service change have longer timeframes for change. With appropriate incentives in place for consumers, switching to zero-emission vehicles can happen relatively quickly. ZEVs will allow those who use personal vehicles to address mobility needs without significant impact on GHG emissions. The CRD's Round Table on the Environment has estimated that 72% of the community fleet needs to be ZEVs in order to reach GHG emission reduction targets.

Current context
In the lower Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands (ICBC's territory W), there were 222 EVs registered as of October 2014. That's out of 1381 total EVs registered in the province. [Charlotte Argue at Fraser Basin Council]

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include*:*
- Invest in supportive transportation infrastructure and facilities
- Develop strategies and action plans to achieve net zero emissions from CRD corporate fleet

Note that many of the key influences on the ability to achieve this target are outside the control of local government.

3.3 Core Housing Need Target

- Reduce the number of households in core housing need by 25% from 2011 levels

Why is this target being proposed?
Access to affordable, adequate and appropriate housing is a key determinant of health. A 25% reduction in the percentage of households in core housing need should be achievable, assuming a continuation of Canadian housing policies in place over the past 30 years operating at the federal, provincial and municipal levels.

Current context
In 2011, 15% of households (20,870) in the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area were in core housing need. Almost 30% of renters compared to 7% of owners are in core housing need. A reduction of 25% would mean that by 2038, 11% of all households in the region would be in core housing need. (All percentages are rounded)

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:
- Continue to provide affordable housing through a collaborative approach with municipalities, provincial agencies and the non-profit sector.

Note that many of the key influences on the ability to achieve this target are outside the control of local government.

4. Wellbeing

4.1 Poverty Reduction Targets

- *Reduce the poverty rate by 75%*

Why is this target being proposed?
Poverty is symptomatic of social inequities. Those living in poverty struggle to make ends meet, care for family members, take part in community life and fulfill their aspirations. The proposed target is informed by a 2008 research report prepared by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (*A Poverty Reduction Plan for BC*) which recommends a provincial reduction of 75% within a decade.

Current context
Based on the National Household Survey (NHS), after tax low income measure (LIM-AT), 13% of people living within the Growth Management Planning Area are living in poverty. LIM-AT is set at half the median of adjusted household after-tax income. (Source: Statistics Canada NHS 2011). Reducing the rate of low income persons by 75% means that the rate would drop to 3% by 2038.

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:

- Support the provision of affordable housing and transportation options
- Encourage new jobs to locate in the region that pay at least a living wage.

Note that many of the key influences on the ability to achieve this target are outside the control of local government.

4.2 Core Housing Need Target

- Reduce the number of households in core housing need by 25% from 2011 levels

Why is this target being proposed?
Access to affordable, adequate and appropriate housing is a key determinant of health. A 25% reduction in the percentage of households in core housing need should be achievable, assuming a continuation of Canadian housing policies in place over the past 30 years operating at the federal, provincial and municipal levels.

Current context
In 2011, 15% of households (20,870) in the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area were in core housing need. Almost 30% of renters compared to 7% of owners are in core housing need. A reduction of 25% would mean that by 2038, 11% of all households in the region would be in core housing need. (All percentages are rounded)

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:

- Continue to provide affordable housing through a collaborative approach with municipalities, provincial agencies and the non-profit sector.

Note that many of the key influences on the ability to achieve this target are outside the control of local government.

Core housing need is a measure of households that cannot afford market housing with their own sources of income (i.e., housing costs are not subsidized).

5. Jobs Target

- *Increase full time jobs at the same or greater rate than the rate of labour force growth*

Why is this target being proposed?
Full-time jobs typically pay more than part-time jobs and provide greater income stability.

Current context
Between 2012 and 2013, the employed labour force decreased by 1.3% and full-time jobs decreased by 2.2%.

Proposed policies, programs and services that can indirectly influence the increase in full-time jobs in the region include:

- continuing to invest in high quality infrastructure, public facilities and parks
- protecting the land base for employment purposes
- promoting the region to potential investors

Note that many of the key influences on the ability to achieve this target are outside the control of local government.

6. Agriculture Target

- *Retain existing amount of Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) lands.*

Why is this target being proposed?
Maintaining the land base to support farming is essential to supporting farming in the region and to decreasing our dependency on imported foods.

Current context
10,596 ha of ALR land (2014)

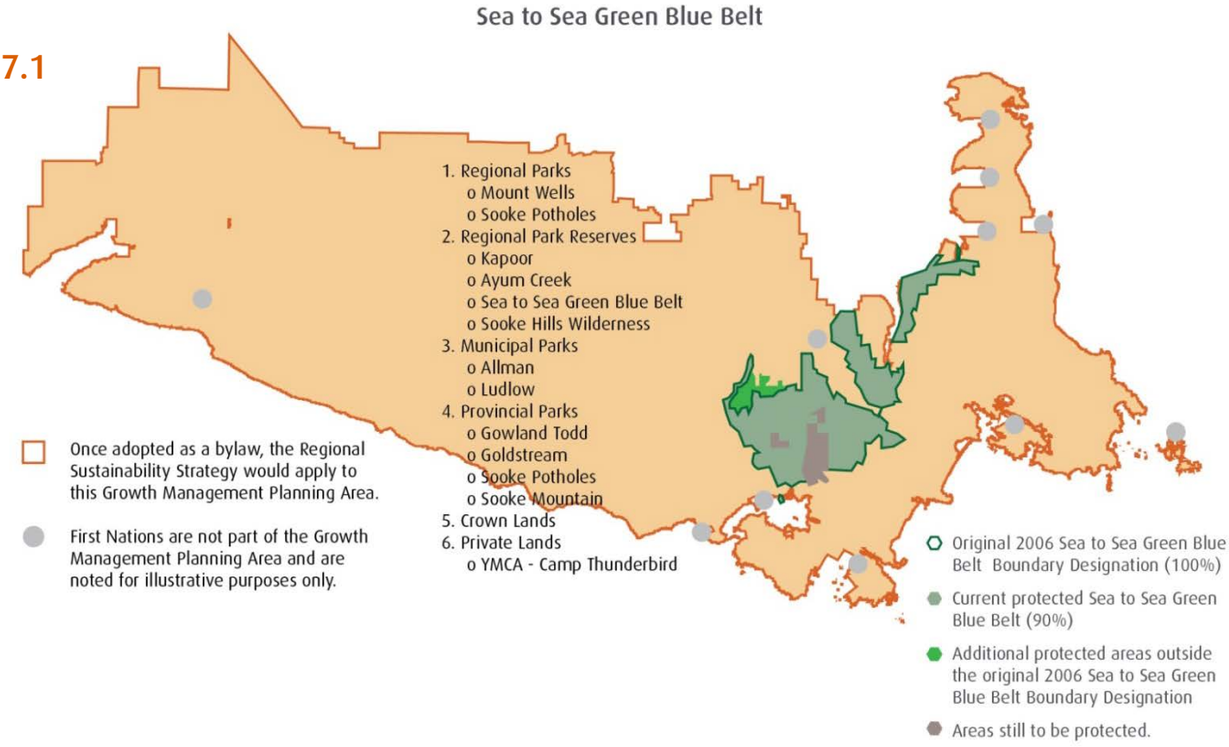
Proposed policies, programs and services that support achieving this target include:

- Reinforce protection of Agricultural Land Reserve lands.
- Support local food production.

The **Agricultural Land Reserve** is a powerful tool regulated by the province to protect agricultural lands for agricultural purposes.

7.1

Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt



7. Natural Environment

7.1 Sea-to-Sea Green Blue Belt Target

- *Acquire 100% of the Sea-to-Sea Green Blue Belt.*

Why is this target being proposed?

Achieving this target would:

- protect a connected green and blue space system from Saanich Inlet to Sooke Basin and Sooke River, including a large area of Coastal Douglas-fir forest
- provide a large wilderness area close to where many residents live.

Current context

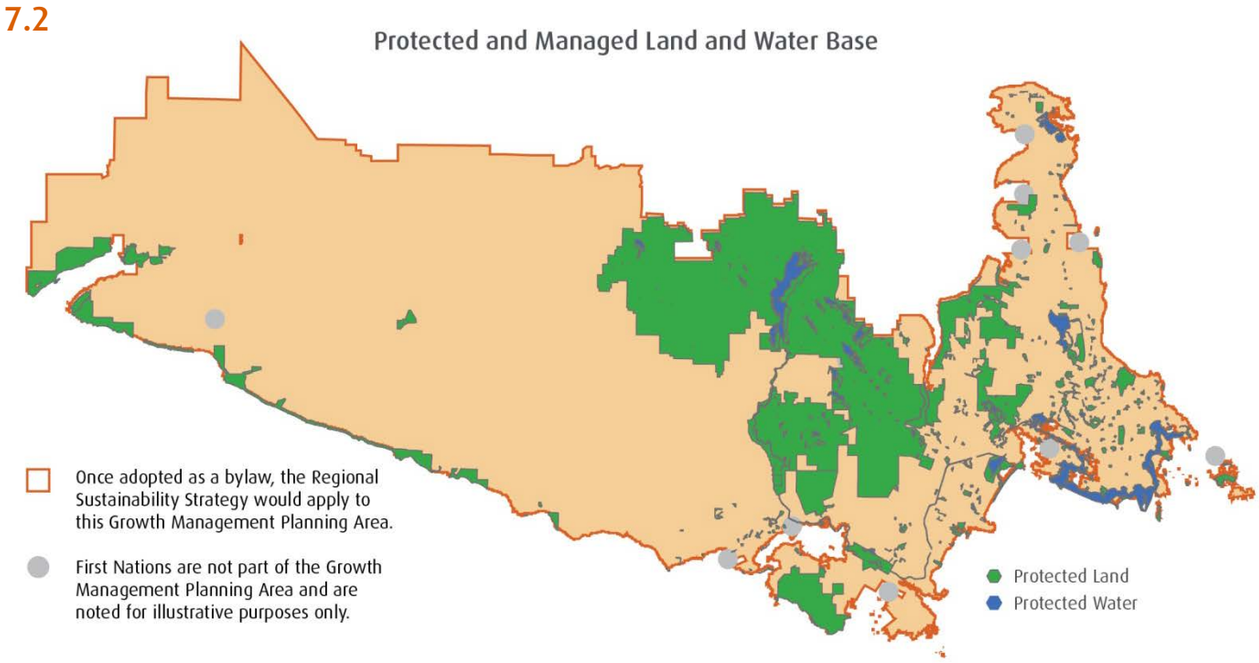
90% of the land for the boundary of the Sea-to-Sea Green Blue Belt has been acquired

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:

- Maintain the Regional Land Acquisition Fund
- *Continue to purchase land for regional parks in the Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt.*

The above infographic provides a broad overview of Parks currently in the Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt.

7.2



7.2 Conservation of Nature Target

- *At least 50% of the Growth Management Planning Area (GMPA) land and water base is protected or managed for the needs of nature and residents of the region.*

Why is this target being proposed?
The CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012-2021 advances the idea of *Nature Needs Half* as a foundational principal for regional sustainability. The concept is based on research by conservation biologists who have been examining the question of how much land is needed to sustain life-supporting ecosystem processes and biodiversity benefits including:

- hydrological function and connectivity
- adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Many scientists agree that protecting 50% of the land and water base for the conservation of nature provides a viable balance between ecosystem services and economic development. It also supports access to nature for residents.

Current context
Within the GMPA 20 % of the land and water base (40,234 hectares) is designated and managed for the conservation of nature. Additional lands may have various levels of protection, for example through provincial regulations, development permit areas, or covenants**.**

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:

- Maintain the Regional Land Acquisition Fund and continue to purchase land for regional parks.
- Support development of a connected network of natural areas based on graduated forms of protection and management and collaboration with a wide range of private, public, and non-profit partners.
- Update the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy.

The **Growth Management Planning Area** (GMPA) is identified in the infographic above.

The second infographic describes several types of **land and water base ecological areas** *being managed and connected for the conservation of nature* that could be included when quantifying this target.

8. Infrastructure Target

- *Identify, by 2020, long-term capital plans for CRD utilities and major infrastructure improvements necessary to address the impacts of climate change and natural hazards.*

Why is this target being proposed?
Increased knowledge of the potential impacts of climate change and known natural hazards allows for a better understanding of how to mitigate and prepare for major events or changes through capital replacement programs.

Current context
Current capital planning funds are generally allocated based on current infrastructure assessments, often with little or no consideration of changing sea levels, known natural hazards or other impacts of climate change

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:

- Consider the impact of climate change and natural hazards during development of annual budgets
- Work with emergency managers, land use planners and others as deemed appropriate during capital planning processes for utilities and infrastructure projects to assess needs.

9. Water Target

- *Defer the need for expansion of regional water supply areas or reservoirs.*

Why is this target being proposed?
Deferring expansion of the regional water supply areas and reservoirs encourages the most efficient and cost-effective management of existing systems.

Current context
- Total demand has been declining across the region since 2004.
- Declining demand amongst existing customers is offsetting growth demand in West Shore communities.

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:
- Encourage development of high performance buildings that use water efficiently
- Manage water use through conservation, rainwater capture and greywater re-use.

10. Waste Target

- *Achieve a waste disposal rate no greater than 250 kg per person.*

Why is this target being proposed?
Waste is the third largest producer of community-based GHG emissions in the region, so reducing per capita solid waste will offset GHG emissions. Reducing per capita rates of solid waste will also extend the life of the Hartland landfill site which is projected to reach capacity in 2049 based on current estimates and assuming diversion of kitchen scraps.

Current context
- 367 kg per person (2013)

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:
- Reduce, recycle and recover resources from solid waste.

11. Emergency Preparedness Target

- *By 2018, 100% of municipalities have completed and tested an Emergency Response Plan for a Catastrophic Earthquake.*

Why is this target being proposed?
The largest known natural hazard facing this region is a potential major earthquake which will affect all municipalities in the region, as well as the Juan de Fuca area and our regional infrastructure.

Current context
Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) is currently completing a review of its readiness for a catastrophic earthquake, with a report due in March 2015. It is anticipated that EMBC will provide leadership in training and exercising for local emergency programs preparing for a major emergency.

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:
Continue collaboration between the Local Government Emergency Program Advisory Commission (LGEPAC) and EMBC to provide leadership in planning for a catastrophic earthquake

12. Energy Target

- Improve energy efficiency of building stock region-wide by 50% (relative to 2007 levels).

Why is this target being proposed?
GHG emissions from existing houses and buildings represent 36% of total community-based emissions region-wide. Increased energy efficiency will increase our ability to adapt to climate change, will make us more resilient in the face of natural disaster, and will save households and businesses money.

Current context
In 2010, the region's buildings accounted for approximately 553,329 tonnes of CO2e. [Province of BC 2010 Community Energy and Emissions Inventories CEEI, Feb 20, 2014]

Proposed policies and services that support achieving this target include:
Increase generation of renewable energy, including:

- pursue opportunities to establish clean district energy systems
- Increase energy efficiency and recovery from retrofits and new development, including for CRD buildings

13. Rate of Progress

- All targets relate to a 2038 time line, unless stated otherwise. Now that you have considered *what* our targets should be, please consider *how fast* we should make progress.

Part D: Other Issues

Another issue under discussion relates to a change in policy from the current Regional Growth Strategy regarding the extent of water servicing across the region. (Maps shown below).

Water Servicing Question

Should the water servicing policy be changed to allow for potential water servicing beyond the current growth management boundaries, to accommodate water service throughout all municipalities and to Otter Point, East Sooke and Port Renfrew in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, subject to full cost recovery and alternative measures to limit development growth in rural areas?

Background: One objective of the Regional Growth Strategy is to limit development in rural areas and to create complete, compact communities in the urban areas. The current Regional Growth Strategy defines a boundary beyond which the CRD and municipalities have agreed not to extend water services or sewer services, other than in conditions of risk to public health. This policy is included as a means to limit development in rural areas. This boundary is called the Regional Urban Containment Services Policy Area (RUSCPA) in the Regional Growth Strategy; it is called the Growth Containment Area in the Draft RSS (see maps above).

A change in policy is being considered in the Draft RSS to allow water servicing beyond this boundary, but not sewer services. Alternative measures to limit growth in rural areas have been included in the Draft RSS. The proposal would allow water services to be extended throughout all municipalities and in three communities in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (East Sooke, Otter Point, Port Renfrew) provided that:

- Official community plans place clear caps on subdivision and development potential
- Recipients of water services pay the full cost of any pipes or other infrastructure components.

This change is being considered because:

- Water lines already exist beyond this boundary in some municipalities;
- The new areas where water services could be extended to have been low growth and anticipated to be low growth in future
- Some communities outside the servicing boundaries are requesting water services;
- Minor extensions can improve the quality of water service and be more economical.

*Related maps shown below

Regional Urban Containment and Servicing Policy Area (in the current Regional Growth Strategy) The area contained within a regulatory boundary (an urban containment boundary) marking the limit between a defined urban growth and servicing area and other areas such as rural and resource areas, where urban growth is discouraged.

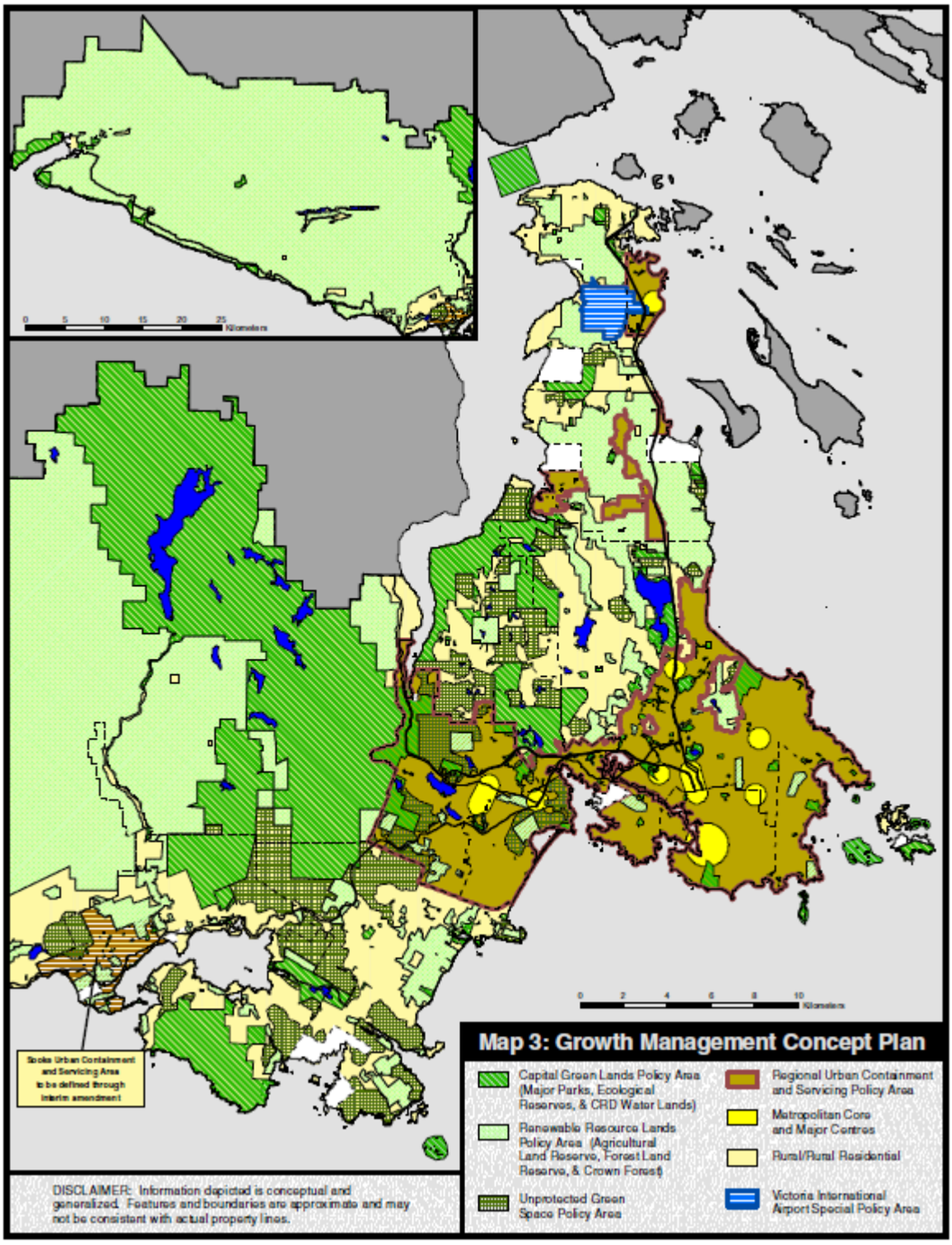
Growth Containment Area (in the Draft Regional Sustainability Strategy)...identifies lands that will be supported for housing and employment growth. These are the areas where major new regional transportation and liquid waste service investments will be directed...The boundary of the GCA reinforces protection of agricultural lands, natural environments, natural resource lands and rural areas.

Part D

Draft Regional Sustainbility Strategy Growth Containment Area

Part D

Regional Growth Strategy Regional Urban Containtment Policy Area (RUCSPA)



Making a difference...together

Agenda Item 6
REPORT #WAC 2015-02

REPORT TO WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

SUBJECT **LEECH WATER SUPPLY AREA OPEN HOUSE**

ISSUE

A series of public open houses concerning management of the Leech Water Supply Area are being planned. Staff are seeking advice on the open house materials prior to submitting to the Regional Water Supply Commission for their approval.

BACKGROUND

In November of 2013 the report Greater Victoria Water Supply Area (GVWSA) Security was presented to the Regional Water Supply Commission. A decision on the recommendation of the report to amend the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area Protection Bylaw No. 2804 to include the Leech Water Supply Area (Leech WSA) and fully close the Leech WSA to public access was deferred to further explore the recreational demands, closure options and to garner public support.

In May of 2014, the report Public and Recreational Use of the Leech Water Supply Area was presented to the Water Advisory Committee in order to seek feedback and advice on several options regarding public access to the Leech WSA. One of the recommendations of the Committee to staff was to provide the public with an opportunity to engage on the issue.

A series of open houses is being planned for spring 2015 to take place in Saanich, Langford, Sooke and Shawnigan Lake. The open houses will be advertised in newspapers, on the CRD website and social media, as well as to individuals who submitted comments.

At the open houses a series of information boards will be displayed that:

- introduce the GVWSA and Water Supply System;
- explain what watersheds are, what they do and why they need protection;
- provide an overview of the risks to the GVWSA watersheds and source water, and the corresponding management approach;
- introduce the challenges of the Leech WSA and restoration work;
- explain why closure of the Leech WSA to unrestricted public access is proposed and what exceptions to full closure could be considered; and,
- request public comment on the management of the Leech WSA and proposed closure

Please refer to attachment 1 to view the full sequence of information boards planned. The open houses will be attended by Integrated Water Services senior staff to answer questions and hear concerns. Water Advisory Committee members, as well as Regional Water Supply Commission members, are encouraged to attend the open houses and participate in discussions with the public about GVWSA watershed protection and the proposed closure of the Leech WSA.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

A budget of approximately $10,000 is needed to prepare information boards, signs, a brochure on GVWSA Watershed Protection, rent venues, advertise and provide tea and coffee. The open houses will be funded from Watershed Protection Division's existing operating budget.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is important to provide the public an opportunity to learn about the need for watershed protection, how the GVWSA is managed and what is being planned. It is important for senior staff to hear from members of the public their concerns and feedback on management of the GVWSA.

It is important to work with local First Nation communities regarding management and plans in the Leech WSA and to also hear their concerns and feedback. The Integrated Water Services Department is working with T'Sou-ke First Nation on a traditional use study to inform management of the Leech WSA and to determine cultural access needs. The open house material may be presented to T'Sou-ke First Nation as part of regular meetings to advance understanding of cultural access needs and CRD's accommodation. It is expected that the CRD will have an understanding with T'Sou-ke First Nation regarding cultural access to the Leech WSA prior to moving forward with the open houses.

CONCLUSION

The Integrated Water Services department is preparing to hold public open houses to provide information on management of the GVWSA, including the Leech WSA, and the proposed closure of the Leech WSA to unrestricted public access, in order to garner public support and obtain feedback.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Advisory Committee:

1. Recommends to the Regional Water Supply Commission that public open houses be held in Saanich, Langford, Sooke and Shawnigan Lake in the spring of 2015 to engage the public on the management of the Leech Water Supply Area and closure of the area to unrestricted public access; and

2. Endorse the open house materials.

A Constabel

Annette Constabel, MSc, RPF
Senior Manager, Watershed Protection

Ted Robbins, BSc, CTech
General Manager, Integrated Water Services
Concurrence

AC:mm

Attachment:
1. Leech WSA Open House: Draft Information Boards

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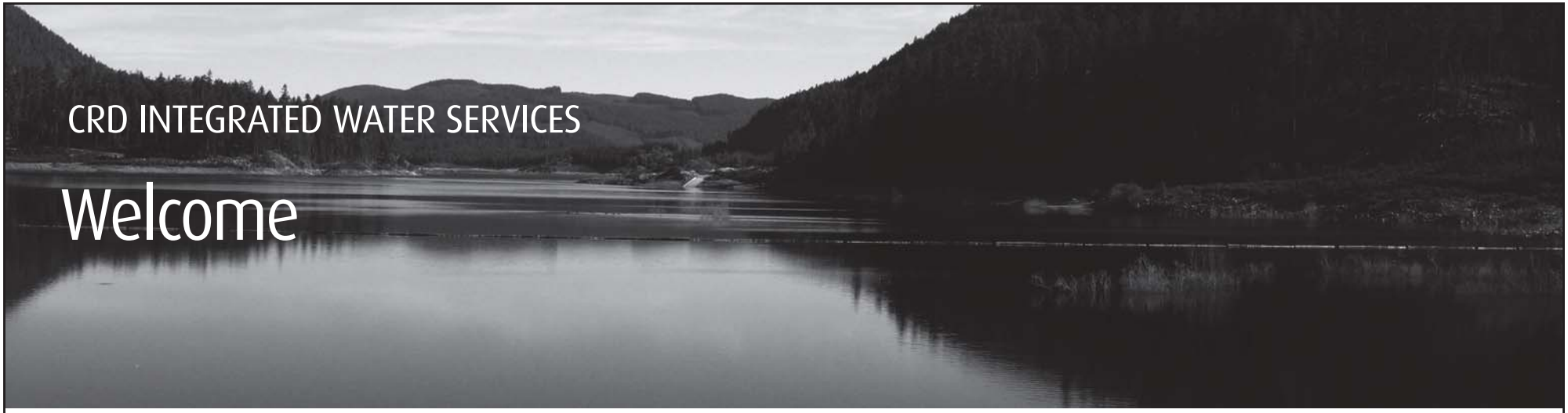


Greater Victoria Water Supply Area: Watershed Protection

Public Open House

CRD INTEGRATED WATER SERVICES | WATERSHED PROTECTION

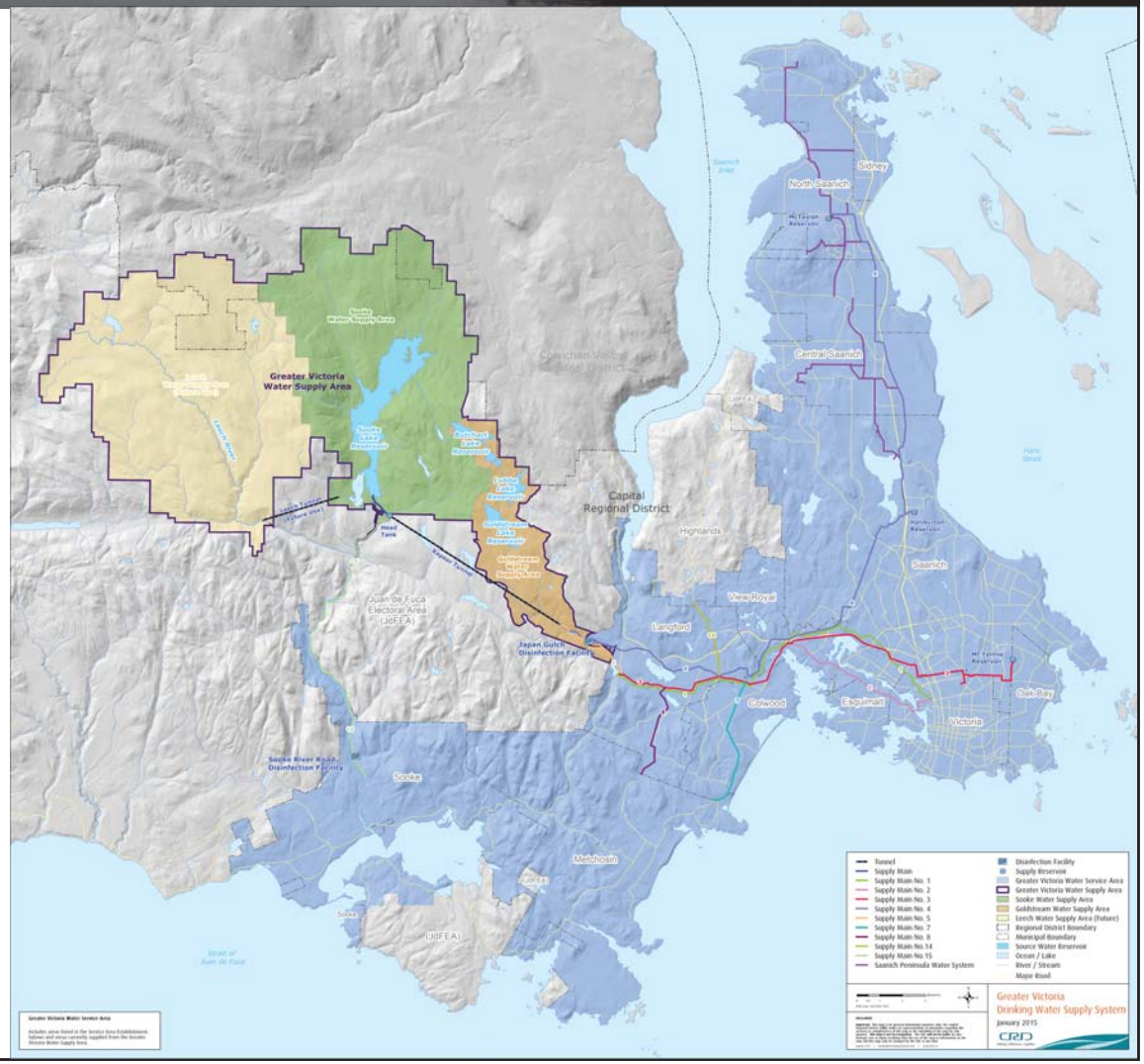
Greater Victoria Water Supply Area & Water Supply System

The Greater Victoria Water Supply Area (GVWSA) provides source drinking water for approximately 350,000 residents of the Greater Victoria area.

Includes:

- Leech Water Supply Area - 9,622 hectares
- Sooke Water Supply Area - 8,620 hectares
- Goldstream Water Supply Area - 2,307 hectares

Total GVWSA - 20,549 hectares



CRD INTEGRATED WATER SERVICES | WATERSHED PROTECTION

3 Watersheds & 2 Reservoir Systems - The Present and Future

The Greater Victoria Water Supply Area is made up of three main watersheds feeding two reservoir systems.

Present: The Goldstream Water Supply Area feeds a series of four reservoirs that have been used for water supply since 1905.

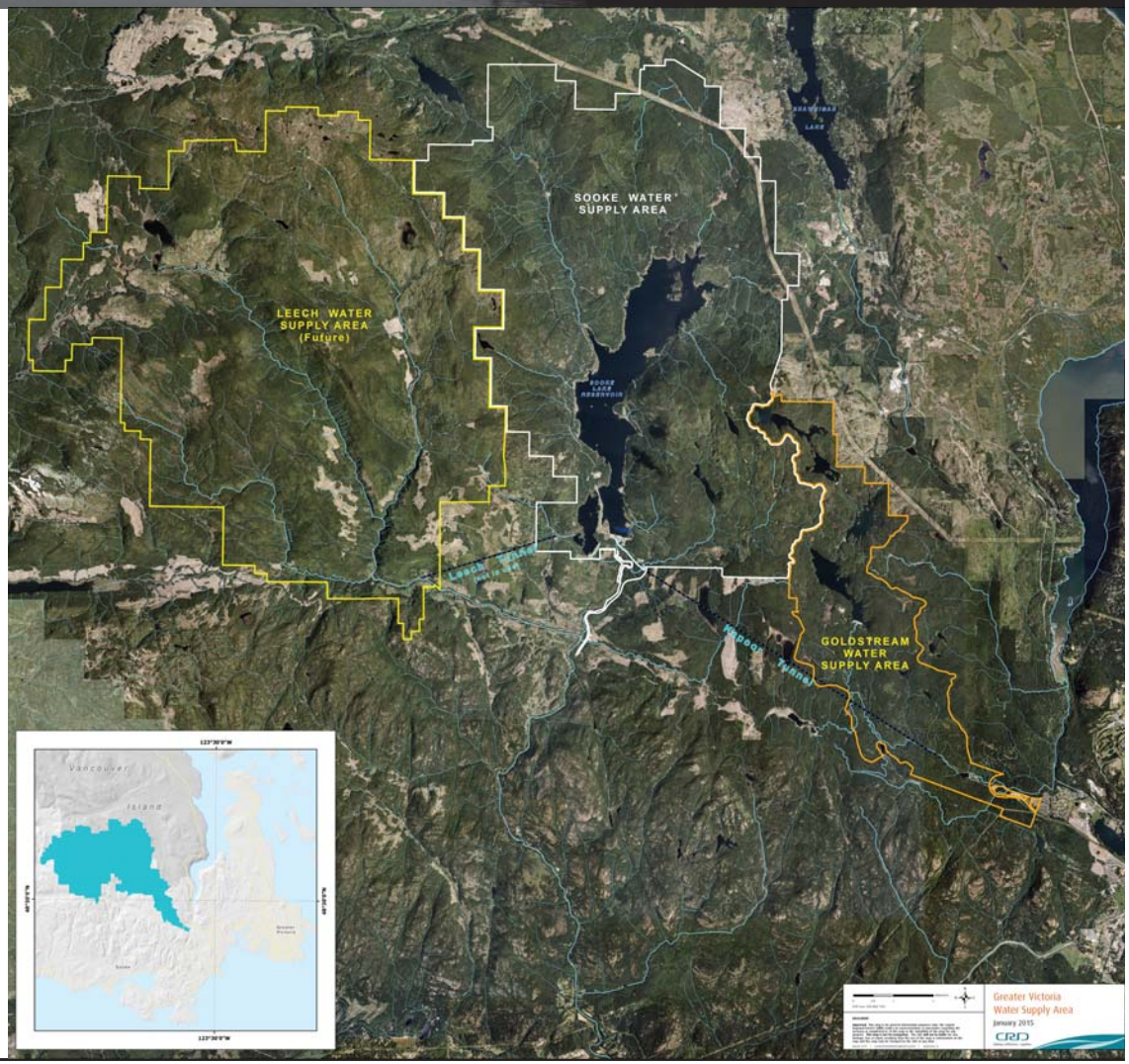
- Provides backup water supply when Sooke Lake Reservoir is taken off line
- Stores 10 million m^3 or two months of winter water supply for Greater Victoria

Present: The Sooke Water Supply Area feeds Sooke Lake Reservoir that has been used for water supply since 1915.

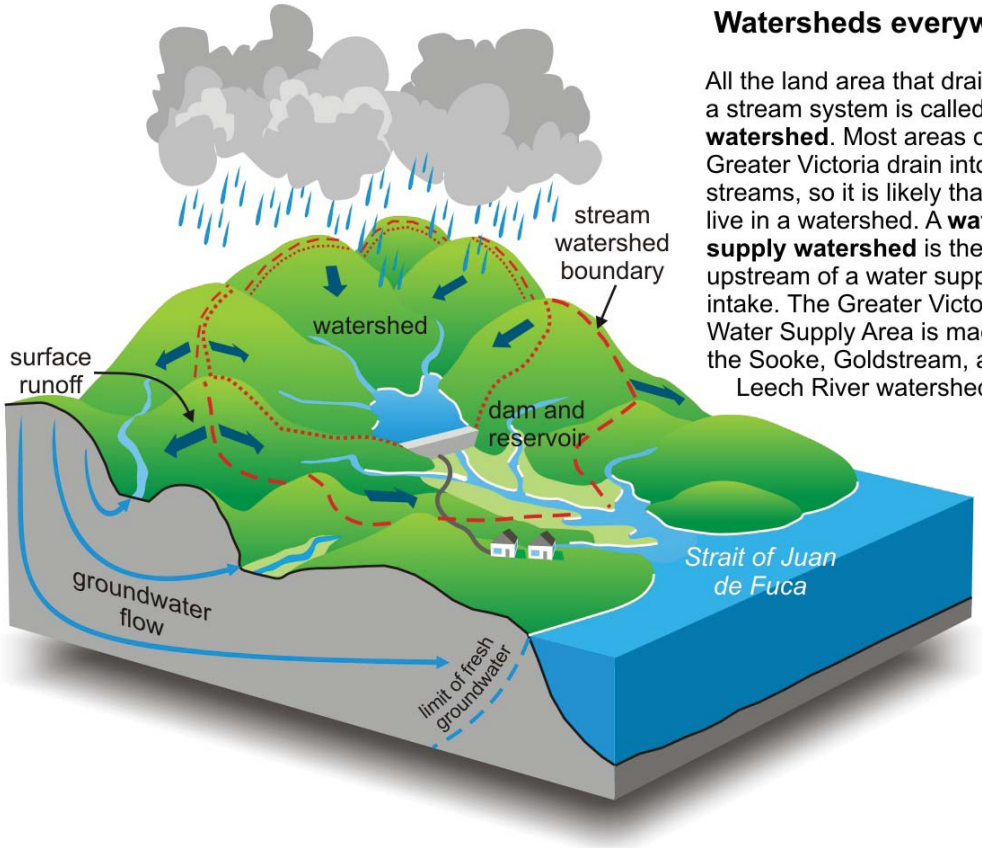
- Provides all of Greater Victoria's drinking water other than a short period for annual maintenance of Kapoor Tunnel
- Stores 160 million m^3 of water, of which 93 million m^3 is available for drinking water

Future: The Leech Water Supply Area feeds the Leech River which will supplement Sooke Lake Reservoir through a tunnel.

- Provides no additional storage capacity
- Water likely not needed for several decades



What is a Watershed? How does it Work?

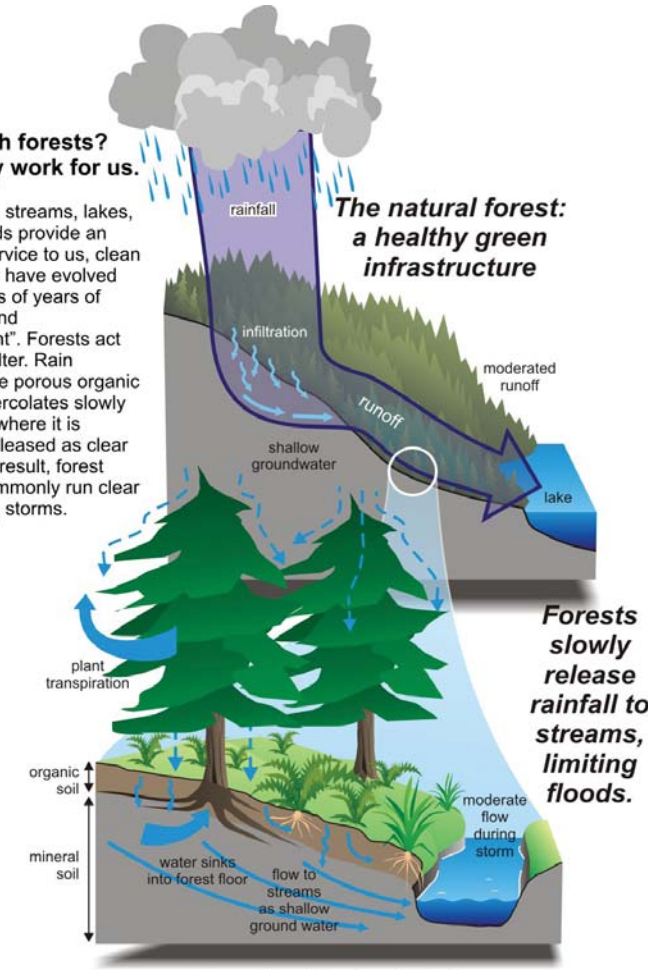


Watersheds everywhere!

All the land area that drains into a stream system is called a **watershed**. Most areas of Greater Victoria drain into streams, so it is likely that you live in a watershed. A **water supply watershed** is the land upstream of a water supply intake. The Greater Victoria Water Supply Area is made up of the Sooke, Goldstream, and Leech River watersheds.

Hi-tech forests?
How they work for us.

Our forests, streams, lakes, and wetlands provide an amazing service to us, clean water! They have evolved over millions of years of "research and development". Forests act as a giant filter. Rain infiltrates the porous organic soils and percolates slowly to streams where it is gradually released as clear water. As a result, forest streams commonly run clear even during storms.



Forests: Most rainfall becomes shallow groundwater

The Need for Watershed Protection

MAINTAINING FOREST COVER

PROTECTING NATURAL DRAINAGE PATTERNS

REDUCING ROAD & HUMAN IMPACTS

Good drinking water starts with healthy forest ecosystems.

Healthy forest ecosystems are maintained by:

- Restricting development and maintaining forest cover
- Keeping contaminants away from watercourses and the watershed
- Preventing large scale natural disturbances like wildfire, insect and disease outbreaks
- Maintaining natural drainage patterns
- Reducing the impacts of roads (source of sedimentation)
- Careful oversight of human activities (possible through land ownership)

CRD Integrated Water Services ensures that drinking water quality is the primary consideration in all planning, design and operational decisions in the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area.

Threats to Watersheds and Water Quality

2012 Wildfire near Shawnigan Lake 1.5 km from Sooke Water Supply Area

Erosion, sediment and nutrient flush into a watercourse from the 2012 Shawnigan Fire

Wildfire

Large forest fires in the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area are a significant risk to water quality and the ability to supply drinking water.

- A large-scale fire has the potential to increase the amount of surface erosion and nutrients entering a reservoir, which could stimulate toxin producing algal growth, increase the amount of suspended sediment in the water and affect the colour and taste of the water.

- Existing water disinfection facilities would not filter out the suspended sediments and organic matter entering the water supply from a large scale wildfire near the reservoir, causing the primary and secondary disinfection processes to be ineffective, posing potential public health risks.

Threats to Watersheds and Water Quality

Wildfire Management

To protect the watersheds against the risk from a large scale wildfire, the Integrated Water Services Department implements an extensive wildfire management program:

Wildfire Prevention Practices:

- No fires allowed throughout the year,
- Operations restricted or shut down during high and extreme fire danger
- No recreational access

Early Wildfire Detection:

- Air and ground patrols during fire season based on fire danger

Management of Forest Fuels:

- Assessing and reducing forest fuels in key areas (facilities, fuel break corridors)
- Management of woody debris from road clearing by chipping or burning

Wildfire Suppression Readiness:

- Additional staff during fire season, training and practice in wildfire suppression
- Fire fighting equipment: 2 large water trucks, 2 small 4 wheel drive water trucks and 4 pickup trucks with all required supplies

Arrangements for Outside Assistance:

- Agreements and cooperation with Wildfire Management Branch and neighbouring landowners to provide firefighting assistance if needed

Planning for Post Fire Risks:

- Assessment of potential erosion and planning for mitigation of areas burned near water supply reservoirs (in progress)

Threats to Watersheds and Water Quality

Contamination from Dumping

Erosion from Off-Road Vehicles

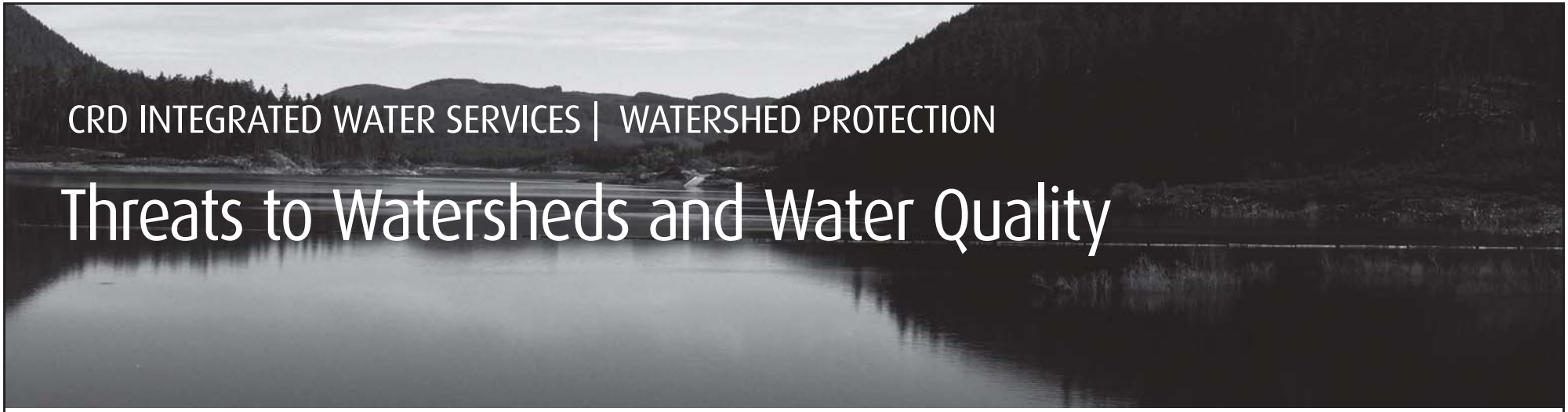
Concerns of Waterborne Disease

Access & Human Activity

Humans and human activities have the potential for some of the greatest threats to water quality.

For example:

- Fire starts that lead to wildfires by careless use of fire or accidental ignition
- Introduction of contaminants into the watersheds such as hydrocarbons (oil, petroleum, plastics and solvents) while using vehicles and equipment
- Introduction and spread of undesirable plant or animal species into the watershed
- Erosion and environmental damage
- Introduction of waterborne diseases into water supply reservoirs from poor sanitation of people or pets
- Vandalism to water supply infrastructure or contamination of reservoir source water
- Encroaching residential development adjacent to the water supply area increases the likelihood of fire starts, complexity of wildfire suppression, recreational pressure, domestic animals straying into the watersheds, introduction and spread of undesirable plant and animal species



CRD INTEGRATED WATER SERVICES | WATERSHED PROTECTION

Threats to Watersheds and Water Quality

Watershed Security

Public access has been controlled in the Sooke and Goldstream watersheds since their purchase in 1915 and 1925 respectively. Watershed caretakers and their visitors required medical testing as early as the 1920s in order to ensure water quality was not compromised. To protect the watersheds against the risks from unauthorized human activities, the Integrated Water Services Department implements the following programs and measures:

Legal Protection:

The Sooke and Goldstream watersheds are protected by the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area Protection Bylaw no. 2804. The bylaw prohibits and provides for enforcement of:

- Unauthorized entry, hunting, fishing, discharge of firearms
- Dumping, damage to the environment or wildlife, vandalism
- Unauthorized fire, tree cutting and fuel storage

Compliance and Enforcement:

- Watershed orientations and educational information for all authorized entrants
- Property signs along property boundaries and inspections
- Investigation of all security incidents
- Warnings and bylaw tickets levied with assistance from CRD Bylaw Officers
- Provincial Wildlife Conservation Officer participation in ground patrols during hunting season

Security Monitoring:

- Gatekeeper at the main entrance gate
- Ground patrols throughout the year and air patrols during fire season
- Video surveillance at critical infrastructure points
- Cooperation with neighbouring property owners on security

Barriers to Unauthorized Access

- Heavy duty gates at road access points into the watersheds
- Boundary fencing where trespass most likely
- Gatekeeper at the main entrance gate

Threats to Watersheds and Water Quality

SPILL BOOM AND REEL

SPILL RESPONSE TRAINING

SPILL RESPONSE

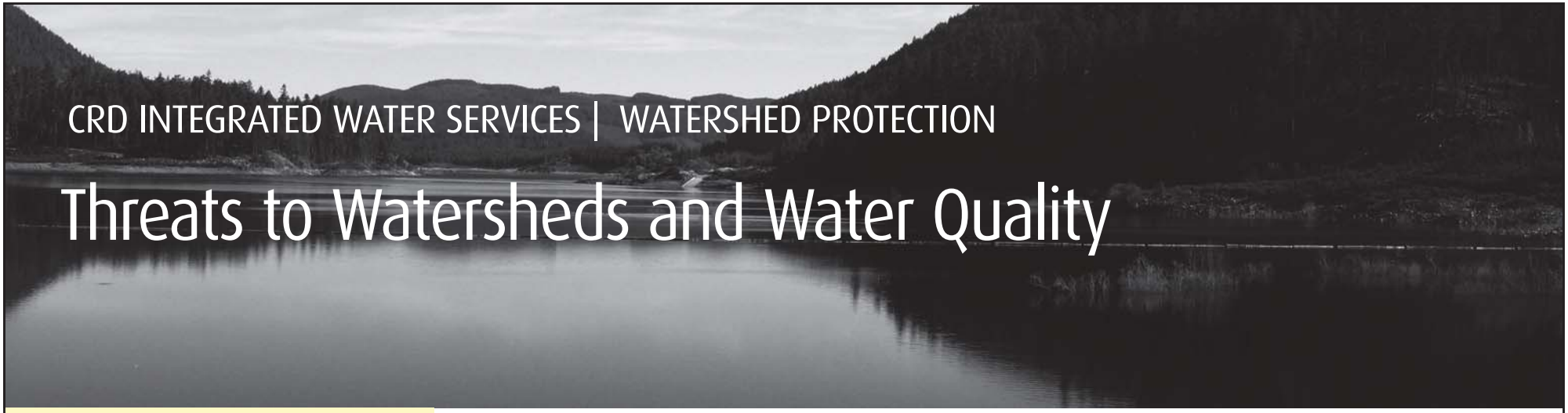
Contamination from Spills

Spills of toxic or hazardous substances are a risk to water quality, should these substances enter the reservoir, particularly near the water supply intake. Spills may occur from equipment, vehicles or aircraft that spill on land or directly into a stream or reservoir.

Spill Prevention and Response

To protect the watersheds and reservoirs from spills of toxic or hazardous substances, the Integrated Water Services Department implements the following programs and measures:

Controlled Access	Spill Prevention Practices	Spill Response
• Access to the watersheds is restricted to those personnel and activities authorized. The authorization process includes screening for hazardous substances.	• Use of environmentally-friendly hydraulic oil • No storage of fuel or oil within the watersheds without authorization and containment measures • No low-level aircraft flights over Sooke Lake Reservoir • Operational activities requiring contact with source water require a water quality protection plan	• Staff trained in spill response • All spills reported and remedied, no matter how small • Vehicles and worksites equipped with spill response supplies, additional supplies in spill depots • Large spill boom for ready deployment on reservoirs if needed



CRD INTEGRATED WATER SERVICES | WATERSHED PROTECTION

Threats to Watersheds and Water Quality

DRINKING WATER RESOURCE

FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Ecosystem Health

Healthy forest ecosystems provide high-quality drinking water through slow filtration of precipitation through natural drainage processes into a receiving reservoir. Where environmental damage occurs, more sediment, nutrients and undesirable minerals and metals can enter water supply reservoirs and degrade water quality.

Environmental Protection

To safeguard the health of the forested ecosystems of the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area, the Integrated Water Services Department implements the following programs and measures:

Drinking water supply is the only resource extraction/use: • No agriculture, forestry • No recreation	**Forest health management:** • Monitoring of insects, disease and windthrow • Intervention where a large-scale disturbance may occur
No application of chemicals: • No broad use of fertilizers or pesticides (a small targeted application may be considered where the benefit to ecosystem health significantly outweighs the risk to water quality)	**Management of access roads and stream crossings:** • Roads are required to maintain access to water supply facilities and for management of watersheds • Roads and stream crossings are managed to reduce their impact on natural drainage patterns and water quality

Threats to Watersheds and Water Quality

Testing for Pathogens

American Bullfrog

Knotweed Outside of Leech WSA

Undesirable Plants and Animals

Wildlife or domestic animals can be sources of pathogens in water in the form of parasites (giardia and cryptosporidium), viruses (hepatitis A, coxsackieviruses) and bacteria (E.coli, Salmonella, Shigella).

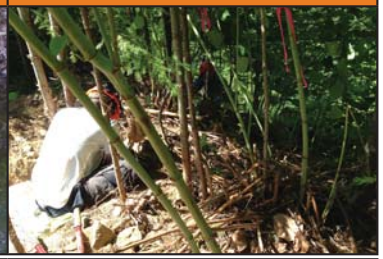
Although water from the reservoirs is treated, a high quantity of pathogens in the source water increases the risk of waterborne disease entering the drinking water system.

Newly invading plant and animal species present a threat to the watersheds by rapidly altering the existing species composition and ecosystem processes which can cause more pathogens, undesirable sediment, nutrients, metals and minerals from entering reservoirs.

Threats to Watersheds and Water Quality

Invasive Species Management

To protect the water quality and ecosystem health of the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area, the Integrated Water Services Department implements the following programs and measures:

Prevention	Management of American Bullfrog	Management of Canada Geese	Management of Beaver	Management of Invasive Plant Species
				
• Removal of dirt and soil from vehicles and equipment prior to entry • No live plants, animals, or soil brought in without risk review • Use of CRD watershed boats only, or dry dock requirements for other boats	• Control of the invasive American bullfrog in the western communities to prevent spread into the GVWSA in collaboration with CRD Regional Parks	• Control of Canada geese population (eggs addled in spring) • Canada geese are scared away from the area where the intake tower is located • Canada geese scat is analyzed annually for presence of pathogens and bacteria	• Beaver are prevented from establishing in the Sooke and Goldstream watersheds • Any trapped beaver is analyzed to detect the presence of any disease or pathogens • Beaver dams are removed where natural drainage patterns or infrastructure are adversely affected	• Eradication of new species e.g. knotweed • Containing spread of established species – gorse, English holly, English ivy, spurge laurel, scotch broom, thistle • Reduction by regaining mature forest cover - Scotch broom, blackberry

Threats to Watersheds and Water Quality

Climate Change

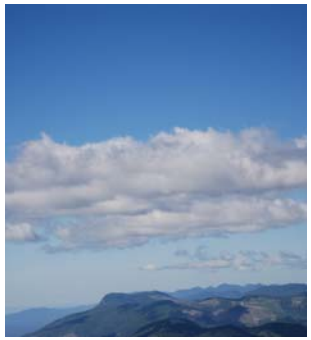
The Issue

Climate change poses a potential risk to forest ecosystem health, water supply and water quality. To date, the general predicted effects of climate change related to the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area include:

- Greater variation in weather between years
- Hotter and drier summers
- Warmer and wetter winters with more intense winter storms
- Less snow in coastal mountains

The predictions associated with climate change have a broad range of implications for the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area:

- Water quality and quantity in the source reservoirs
- Ecological processes and ecosystems
- Bridges, culverts and ditches along roads
- Operation and maintenance of water supply infrastructure



Climate Adaptation Strategy

The Integrated Water Services Department cannot protect the watersheds from predicted climate changes, but can reduce some of the effects climate change may have on the water supply areas and water supply system. Currently the department is undertaking the following programs and measures:

- Assess and prioritize the risks of climate change on the drinking water system (underway)
- Develop and implement adaptation strategies (underway)
- Assess and upgrade drainage structures in the watersheds to meet 15% higher peak flows (underway)

New Challenges - Leech Water Supply Area

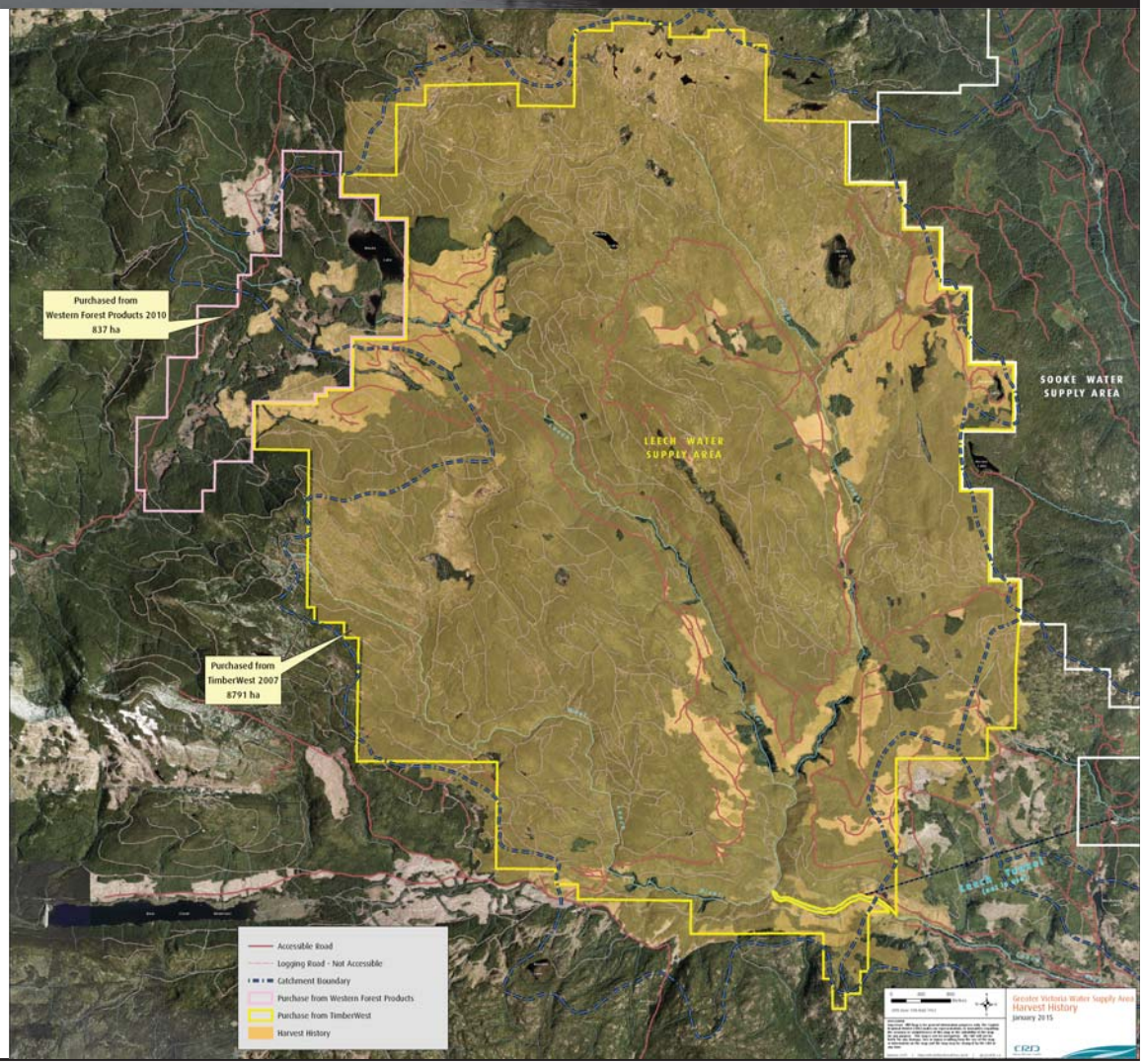
Acquisition and History

The Leech Water Supply Area (WSA) was acquired by the CRD for future water supply through two purchases:

1. 8,791 hectares purchased from TimberWest in 2007
2. 837 hectares purchased from Western Forest Products in 2010

95% of the Leech WSA was harvested with an extensive road network of more than 400 kilometres.

92% of the watershed of the Leech River above the diversion tunnel is now owned and managed by the CRD for water supply.



CRD INTEGRATED WATER SERVICES | WATERSHED PROTECTION

Leech Water Supply Area - Issues & Recommendations

In 2009, the condition of the Leech water supply area was assessed by a team of consultants and CRD staff. The following overarching issues and recommendations were noted:

Roads

Issue: Existing road network has terrain stability and sedimentation concerns placing risk on Leech River water quality.

Recommendations:

- Inventory and assess all roads and drainage structures
- Develop access management plan for the area
- Upgrade roads and drainage structures of water quality concern
- Deactivate and/or rehabilitate roads on unstable terrain or that are no longer needed

Wildfire

Issue: Wildfire represents a major threat and risk to Greater Victoria water supply. Integrated Water Services has a well established wildfire management program, but the Leech represents different wildfire protection challenges (less access, more trespass, large area)

Recommendations:

- Incorporate the Leech watershed into the wildfire management program for the GVWSA
- Evaluate fuel reduction opportunities and options
- Develop a wildfire fuel management plan

CRD INTEGRATED WATER SERVICES | WATERSHED PROTECTION

Leech Water Supply Area - Issues & Recommendations

Watershed Security

Issue: Unauthorized access represents a major threat and risk to water supply. Unauthorized access brings potential risks of wildfire starts, contaminants, invasive species, erosion and other environmental risks to the Leech watershed.

Recommendations:

- Assess unauthorized access points, increase effectiveness of physical barriers
- Increase Leech watershed ground patrols and presence
- Revise the Water Supply Area Protection Bylaw to include the Leech watershed and revise penalties to ensure effective deterrence
- Develop and implement a public education program to discourage trespass

Soil Erosion and Slope Stability

Issue: The Leech watershed contains areas of highly unstable terrain as evidenced by historic landslides. Further landslides into the Leech River could have devastating impacts on water quality.

Recommendations:

- Assess existing landslides for rehabilitation
- Conduct detailed terrain mapping
- Assess sediment sources, sinks and movement within the watershed

CRD INTEGRATED WATER SERVICES | WATERSHED PROTECTION

Leech Water Supply Area - Issues & Recommendations

Forest Health

Issue: The Leech watershed has been heavily logged, adequate healthy reforestation must be achieved to meet water quality goals over time. Invasive species represent a challenge to restoration and a possible threat to ecological integrity.

Recommendations:

- Collect forest inventory information for the Leech Water Supply Area
- Assess forest plantations and fill plant or brush to achieve reforestation objectives
- Conduct annual forest insect and disease surveys to monitor for trends

Other Recommendations

Water Quality and Restoration Program Monitoring:

- Implement a network of water quality monitoring sites to gauge existing water quality and the effect of restoration efforts on water quality in future years.

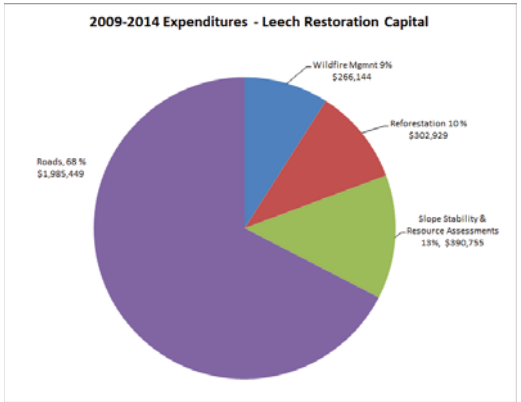
Cultural Assessment of the Leech Water Supply Area:

- Conduct an assessment of the cultural values of the Leech Water Supply Area and use the information to guide future management decisions.

CRD INTEGRATED WATER SERVICES | WATERSHED PROTECTION

Leech Water Supply Area - Restoration Program

In 2009, a 25-year $5.8 million capital plan was approved by the Regional Water Supply Commission to rehabilitate the Leech Water Supply Area. The graph to the right summarizes the work completed to date in the Leech Water Supply Area.



Highlights of restoration work completed:

Roads: • Piling and removal of cables, old culverts and scrap metal • Removal or replacement of failing bridges: Jarvis Main, West Leech, Survey Main • Upgrade of Survey Mountain Main and Cragg Main roads • Re-routing of Survey Main and Jarvis Main road	**Reforestation:** • Planting of 137,186 tree seedlings – Douglas fir, wester red cedar, white pine • Brushing for tree seedling release • Pruning white pine to reduce susceptibility to white pine blister rust
Slope Stability • Classification and mapping of geology, terrain, landslides, terrain stability and soil erosion potential • Road rehabilitation prescriptions for roads on unstable terrain	**Wildfire Management Program** • Piling and burning of remaining logging slash • Installation of two fire weather stations • Identification and development of water pumping stations, fire vantage points, helicopter landing sites • Removal of a derelict cabin at Jarvis Lake

CRD INTEGRATED WATER SERVICES | WATERSHED PROTECTION

Leech Water Supply Area - Why Close the Leech to Public Access

Reasons to close the Leech to Public Access:

History: The Leech has never been "open" to public access while held by TimberWest and Western Forest Products or the CRD, but lack of enforcement has led to a perception that it is open to the public.

Vision: The Leech WSA was purchased at significant cost ($64 million) to protect and rehabilitate the lands that would provide future drinking water supply for Greater Victoria. Unrestricted public access places the protection and rehabilitation of the watershed at risk.

Inaccessible by public road: In order to reach the Leech WSA, you must first pass through TimberWest private forest land. Passing through TimberWest private lands without permission is trespass and illegal.

Risk of Fire Spreading to Sooke Water Supply: Unrestricted public access greatly increases the likelihood of a fire start. During dry summer conditions a fire start could burn into the Sooke Water Supply Area which could be catastrophic to current drinking water.

Detrimental Aspects of Public Access: Unauthorized public access in the Leech WSA has resulted in tree cutting, dumping, vandalism of infrastructure, discharge of firearms and fireworks, burning, littering, sanitation concerns, rutting, erosion and damage to Weeks Lake and fish bearing streams.

Public Safety: With the purchase of the Leech WSA, the CRD inherited new management and safety issues relating to steep slopes, landslides, poorly maintained roads with failing drainage structures. These conditions pose a safety hazard.

CRD INTEGRATED WATER SERVICES | WATERSHED PROTECTION

Leech Water Supply Area - When Might Access be Permitted

Non-Motorized Recreation

Requests from clubs and organisations for non-motorized recreation may be considered while the Leech Water Supply Area is not in active use for drinking water supply.

- Staff could consider and accommodate recreational access requests that are compatible with watershed protection and restoration efforts on a case-by-case basis.
- Clubs would require permission for transit through adjacent private forest land (TimberWest), insurance for their members and attendance at an orientation session.

Cultural Use

A traditional use study is being undertaken in collaboration with the T'Sou-ke First Nation to collect information on past uses of the area by local indigenous people.

Staff will consider and accommodate cultural access requests that are consistent with watershed protection and restoration efforts.

Mining

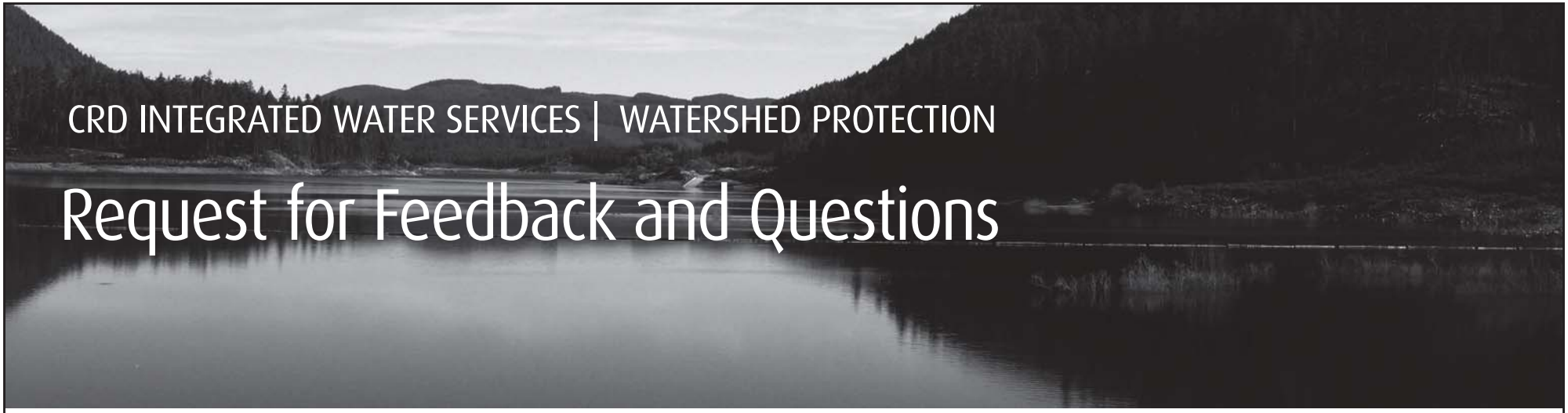
The Leech Water Supply Area has a long history of placer mining and mineral exploration that pre-dates the CRD purchase of the lands. Currently, miners with valid tenures must be allowed access to their claim areas.

CRD INTEGRATED WATER SERVICES | WATERSHED PROTECTION

Leech Water Supply Area - Benefits of Closing the Leech to Public Access

The benefits of fully integrating the Leech into the GVWSA security program include:

- Reduced risk of fire starts and wildfire that could affect our current drinking water source
- Protection of a major financial investment in our future water supply
- Improved environmental stewardship - reduced risk of environmental damage and spread of invasive species
- Reduced risk of contamination of source water from poor sanitation of people and pets
- Rehabilitation efforts not delayed or reduced by foot and off road traffic
- Consistent security approach with surrounding landowners, trespassing across TimberWest lands not encouraged
- Consistent approach to watershed protection throughout the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area



CRD INTEGRATED WATER SERVICES | WATERSHED PROTECTION

Request for Feedback and Questions

Now it's your turn to tell us what you think!

Please consider filling out the short survey and placing a post-it in the comment box to the right:

Points of interest for us:

- The importance of good drinking water quality to you
- The importance of watershed protection programs for our water supply areas and how they could be improved
- Your thoughts on our efforts to rehabilitate the Leech watershed
- Your level of concern with current unauthorized public access to the Leech watershed and plans to restrict public access.

Thank you for engaging with us about the protection of our drinking water.

Your comments and feedback

Making a difference...together

Agenda Item 7
REPORT #WAC 2015-03

REPORT TO WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

SUBJECT **2015 REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN**

ISSUE

To inform the Water Advisory Committee of the regional water supply educational campaign planned for 2015.

BACKGROUND

A regional water supply educational campaign is being prepared for 2015 to increase resident awareness of the Capital Regional District (CRD) services that support the supply of drinking water in Greater Victoria. The proposed principal message and tag line of the campaign is 'Get to know your H2O'. This tag line ties to similar provincial, national and international water association messaging that supports public awareness of drinking water. The five themes below support this message and the key aspects of water supply from 'source to tap':

- Protection of drinking water
- Disinfection of drinking water
- Delivery of drinking water
- Conservation of drinking water
- Pricing of drinking water

Initially, the concept for this campaign focused on promoting a value of water message. However, since there has been little public education done previously to raise resident awareness of the CRD services that contribute to providing high-quality drinking water in Greater Victoria, staff are recommending that a campaign promoting foundational information on aspects of drinking water supply with an educational focus, is needed to prime the audience for receiving a value of water message and other subsequent annual campaign messages.

The print advertisements will feature professional photos of staff performing key services related to the above themes and the supply of drinking water in Greater Victoria. The conceptual draft print ads covering the five themes are attached for illustrative purposes.

Strategies and Tactics

Some of the potential channels to promote the campaign messages include: a modest amount of print advertising, advertorials (where available), PSA with Shaw TV (available at the non-profit rate), rack cards, print materials provided to CRD outreach team, engagement-focused social media advertising and contests, campaign webpage on CRD website and earned media.

Campaign Schedule

The campaign is tentatively scheduled to run from April 2015 until November 2015. Each theme will run for approximately 4 weeks. Below is the tentative schedule for themes:

- Protection of drinking water – April 2015
- Disinfection of drinking water – May 2015
- Delivery of drinking water – June 2015
- Conservation of drinking water – July/August/September 2015 (along with Demand Management Program Ads)
- Pricing of drinking water – October/November 2015

Campaign Budget

The budget for this campaign is still to be determined. For 2015 it is proposed to fund the campaign from the operating budget.

CONCLUSION

The Integrated Water Services department is preparing an educational campaign for 2015 in order to promote awareness of the CRD services that contribute to supplying drinking water in Greater Victoria.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Advisory Committee recommend to the Regional Water Supply Commission that the proposed 2015 educational campaign be prepared and implemented to promote awareness of the CRD services that contribute to supplying drinking water in Greater Victoria.

Hailey Dale, MA
Communications Coordinator

Ted Robbins, BSc, CTech
General Manager, Integrated Water Services
Concurrence

Attachment: 5
HD:AC:mm

Get to know your H_2O!

Protecting the Watershed So It Can Continue to Produce High-Quality Drinking Water for Another 100 years

By simply turning on the tap, CRD residents enjoy some of the freshest, cleanest and most delicious drinking water found anywhere in the world. To protect and maintain this priceless resource, the CRD owns and protects 98% of the watershed land that drains in the Sooke and Goldstream water supply reservoirs. This helps us continue to have one of the most stable drinking water sources in the Pacific Northwest.

At a wholesale rate of just 59 cents for 1000 litres, the CRD maintains and upgrades the infrastructure needed to protect, disinfect and deliver drinking water safely, efficiently and cost-effectively to those connected to the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System.

To learn more about how your drinking water is protected and to test your drinking water knowledge to win some great prizes, visit **www.crd.bc.ca/knowyourh2o**

CRD
Making a difference...together

www.crd.bc.ca

Get to know your H_2O!

Treating and Testing our Drinking Water So It's Fresh, Delicious and Safe

By simply turning on the tap, CRD residents enjoy some of the freshest, cleanest and most delicious drinking water found anywhere in the world. The CRD disinfects and conducts over 35,000 tests each year on your drinking water to make sure that it doesn't just taste great, but that it exceeds all provincial and federal regulations.

At a wholesale rate of just 59 cents for 1000 litres, the CRD protects, disinfects and delivers drinking water safely, efficiently and cost-effectively to those connected to the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System.

To learn more about how your high drinking water quality is guaranteed and to test your drinking water knowledge to win some great prizes, visit **www.crd.bc.ca/knowyourh2o**

CRD
Making a difference...together

www.crd.bc.ca

Get to know your H_2O!

Building and Maintaining a Complex System of Pipes So When You Turn On Your Tap, You Aren't Disappointed

By simply turning on the tap, CRD residents enjoy some of the best drinking water found anywhere in the world. The CRD provides over 137 million litres of water for residents and businesses every day through 110 kilometres of pipes running from Sooke Lake Reservoir to your home.

At a wholesale rate of just 59 cents for 1000 litres, the CRD maintains and upgrades the infrastructure needed to protect, disinfect and deliver drinking water safely, efficiently and cost-effectively to those connected to the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System.

To learn more about how your drinking water is delivered and to test your drinking water knowledge to win some great prizes, visit **www.crd.bc.ca/knowyourh2o**

www.crd.bc.ca

CRD
Making a difference...together

Get to know your H_2O!

Promoting Conservation So We Can All Use Water More Efficiently

By simply turning on the tap, CRD residents enjoy some of the freshest, cleanest and most delicious drinking water found anywhere in the world. At a wholesale rate of just 59 cents for 1000 litres, the CRD protects, disinfects and delivers drinking water safely, efficiently and cost-effectively to those connected to the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System.

Our local water is a priceless resource that we all need to use wisely. Every saved drop counts – a full reservoir means stable water quality, a reserve in case of a dry weather, extra water in case of emergencies, and water available for fish releases. And not to mention, it saves you money.

To learn more about the reasons and ways to conserve water and to test your drinking water knowledge to win some great prizes, visit **www.crd.bc.ca/knowyourh2o**

www.crd.bc.ca

CRD
Making a difference...together

Get to know your H_2O!

Pricing Our Water So We Can Keep the Service Affordable and Sustainable

By simply turning on the tap, CRD residents enjoy some of the best (and most affordable) drinking water found anywhere in the world. At a wholesale rate of just 59 cents for 1000 litres, the CRD protects, disinfects and delivers drinking water safely, efficiently and cost-effectively to those connected to the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System.

Our tap water is priced so our municipal customers can sell it to residents at an affordable retail rate. We also make sure that our retail water rate for Westshore residential customers is comparable. Also, did you know that tap water is on average 500 times less expensive than bottled water - and it's zero-waste!

To learn more about how your drinking water is priced and to test your drinking water knowledge to win some great prizes, visit **www.crd.bc.ca/knowyourh2o**

CRD
Making a difference...together

www.crd.bc.ca

CRD EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM ORIENTATION

SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS TO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	STATUS
Monday, January 19, 2015	7 pm	District of Highlands Highlands Municipal Hall	Confirmed
Tuesday, January 20, 2015	10 am	North Saanich Council North Saanich Municipal Hall	Confirmed
Thursday, January 29, 2015	7 pm	District of Central Saanich Central Saanich Municipal Hall	Confirmed
Monday, February 2, 2015	9 am	Metchosin Council Metchosin Hall, 4450 Happy Valley Road	Confirmed
	7 pm	District of Sooke Sooke Municipal Hall	Confirmed
Monday, February 16	5:30 pm	Township of Esquimalt Esquimalt Municipal Hall	Confirmed
Tuesday, February 17	5:00 pm	Town of View Royal View Royal Municipal Hall	Confirmed
Monday, February 23	2 pm	City of Victoria 1 Centennial Square	Tentative
	7:30 pm	District of Saanich Saanich Municipal Hall	Tentative
Monday, March 2	6 pm	Town of Sidney Sidney Municipal Hall	Confirmed