



August 15, 2019

Ref: 248536

Colin Plant
Chair, Capital Regional District Board
625 Fisgard St, PO Box 1000
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Email: colin.plant@saanich.ca

Dear Chair Plant:

Thank you for your letter of July 17, 2019, seeking funding for a Water Service Optimization Study in Salt Spring Island Electoral Area. The main goals of the proposed study are to better understand the current public water service system and where there may be gaps and identify options to improve the system.

I understand that North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) and the Capital Regional District (CRD) have collaborated on the terms of reference and are seeking, at a minimum, to explore the following two options:

- Option A – improve integration and coordination of service delivery on Salt Spring while maintaining NSSWD’s status as an independent public water service provider; and
- Option B – create a consolidated CRD Salt Spring Water Commission and centralize operation and administration of Salt Spring water service on island (this option would include conversion of NSSWD to a CRD service).

This will be valuable work, addressing one of the significant community concerns raised during the incorporation study process and left unaddressed at its conclusion. I am therefore pleased to advise you that I have approved a \$50,000 restructure planning grant to undertake the study.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Commitment No.</u>
Salt Spring Island Water Service Optimization Study	\$50,000	51 RS2003

Upon completion of the study, I expect the NSSWD Board of Trustees and the CRD Board will meaningfully review each of the options presented and consider what steps to take next.

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The ministry will follow up with CRD administration with respect to the terms and conditions of the grant and the transfer of funds. Ms. Arielle Guetta, Senior Planning Analyst, is the ministry lead for this project and can be reached by telephone at: 778-698-3216, and by email at: arielle.guetta@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SR', is positioned above the printed name.

Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs
and Housing