



Making a difference...together

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May 20, 2014

File: 0400-20

The Honourable Mary Polak  
Minister of Environment  
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt  
Rm 247, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2  
**Sent by email: [env.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:env.minister@gov.bc.ca)**

Dear Minister Polak:

### **CORE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT – DECISION FOR ADVANCED OXIDATION**

I am writing to inform you of a recent decision of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board regarding the Core Area Wastewater Treatment Program (Seaterra).

At its meeting of May 14, 2014 the Board passed the following motion:

*"That implementation of advanced oxidation (ozonation, hydrogen peroxide) be included as part of the proposed procurement contract, and that an increase in the Seaterra Program budget of \$5,221,200 be approved."*

One of the strong messages we have heard from the public regarding wastewater treatment is concern around removal of trace contaminants and 'substances of emerging concern' from the effluent. These contaminants include pharmaceuticals excreted by people as prescribed medications that are not fully absorbed by the body, endocrine disrupters, personal care products, household cleaners, fire retardants, micro plastics contained in skin cleansers and tooth paste, etc. Given these concerns, the Board has approved a change in scope to move to a higher standard of treatment as part of the procurement contract negotiation process with the preferred proponent, selected by the Seaterra Commission.

This initiative to increase the scope of treatment is a substantial improvement and it can be undertaken with a relatively small increase in the capital and operating costs of the Seaterra Program. It is noted that the footprint of the facility provided for these improvements to be installed in the future and therefore no changes to the planned structures are required.

As mentioned in previous correspondence to you, we would be happy to meet with you or your staff to discuss the Seaterra Program. You may reach me through the CRD office at 250.360.3125 or by email [crdchair@crd.bc.ca](mailto:crdchair@crd.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

Alastair Bryson  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc Capital Regional District Board of Directors  
Robert Lapham, CAO, CRD  
Albert Sweetnam, Seaterra Program Director, CRD