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Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Capital Regional District CALWMC Narrows Focus & Moves Forward on Wastewater Treatment Option 1A

Victoria, BC – The Capital Regional District’s Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee (CALWMC) has narrowed its focus in the consideration of a distributed wastewater treatment configuration for the Region’s Core Area. Option 1A, and specifically 1A Prime, have been selected as the preferred system configurations for further analysis, with Option 1B being retained as a backup configuration in the event that land acquisition is unsuccessful for 1A; Option 1C has been removed from further consideration.

“Key in committee’s decision today was the increased emphasis on resource recovery opportunities and the low cost,” said CALWMC Chair Judy Brownoff. “I am very pleased with both the cost estimate and the potential for carbon offsets, which will help create an environmentally sustainable system. Option 1A Prime also allows the West Shore more planning time to determine how they will meet the Provincial mandate for treatment. I am confident that this decision will give committee more focus and bring the Core Area closer to a sustainable, affordable wastewater treatment system.”

The cost of Option 1A is estimated at \$965 million and includes the potential for more than 18,000 tonnes of carbon offsets per year, primarily from gas and heat sales recovered from wastewater. Included in Option 1A is a Saanich East-North Oak Bay liquids only plant, treatment plants at McLoughlin Point and the West Shore, a Clover Point wet weather facility and a remote biosolids facility. Annual resource recovery revenues are estimated at \$5.7 million by 2030 and \$13 million by 2065.

Option 1A Prime was developed by CRD consultants as the least cost option. Under this option, the West Shore treatment plant would be deferred for 8-10 years and the Clover Point wet weather facility would be deferred or eliminated. The cost for Option 1A Prime is estimated at \$715 million. Lower costs are primarily due to the deferment or elimination of the Clover Point plant and the deferment of the West Shore plant. Effluent from the West Shore would be treated, in the interim, at McLoughlin Point.

CRD consultants identified several potential resources from wastewater, including water reuse for irrigation, heat extraction for use in buildings and digester heating, bio-methane generation, phosphorus recovery and power generation. The integration of solid and liquid waste streams would provide further future resource recovery benefits.

In 2006 the CRD began planning to upgrade its wastewater treatment at the request of the Minister of Environment for British Columbia. The Core Area includes the municipalities of Colwood, Esquimalt, Langford, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria and View Royal. On December 31, 2009 the CRD must submit an

amendment to the existing Liquid Waste Management Plan for final approval by the Ministry of Environment. Planning and construction of this wastewater treatment system is expected to take 10 years to complete.

For information on the CRD's Wastewater Treatment Project please visit: www.wastewatermadeclear.ca

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