



Making a difference...together

Capital Regional District

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December 15, 2008

The Honourable Barry Penner
Minister of Environment
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V9W 9E2

Dear Minister Penner:

RE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT – CORE AREA AND WEST SHORE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROJECT – DECEMBER 2008 PROGRESS REPORT

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is pleased to submit the December 2008 progress report you requested in your letter dated 08 July 2008.

Since July 2008, when you granted a one-year extension to the required date for submission of the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan amendment, the CRD has made substantial progress in planning for wastewater treatment. This includes developing a distributed treatment plant model and resource recovery options such as biogas generation, water reuse, biosolids and heat recovery. This information is being presented in a series of discussion papers, which will prove indispensable in the decision-making process in the coming months. Recently, the CRD decided to commission a peer review of the options available for wastewater treatment. The peer review findings will be an invaluable aid in making upcoming decisions.

The last four months have also given CRD the opportunity to engage in several public education efforts. An opinion editorial was published in local papers in August 2008, along with a number of advertising features. In the summer of 2008, the CRD also launched a new website dedicated to the wastewater treatment issue. The site, based on discussion papers, reports and scientific research, will spearhead the CRD's public education and consultation campaigns and act as an up-to-date resource during the tenure of the project.

The CRD has also prepared plain language summaries of many of the discussion papers, which will be used for media and for information dissemination with the public. The summaries will be particularly useful during the CRD's planned public consultation scheduled for spring 2009. Consultation is an integral part of the planning process for wastewater treatment in the core area; with the addition of the peer review's findings, the CRD will bring a series of well-researched, viable options to the table for consideration. Consultation will involve public open houses, meetings and education, using a variety of media.

The December 2008 progress report is attached. It consists of the following documents:

- **Staff Report – Macaulay and Clover Point Wastewater and Marine Environment Program 2007 Annual Report (Appendix A)**
- **Summary of Work Completed from June to December 2008 and Work Proposed for 2009 (Appendix B)**
 - (1) Program development phase – conceptual planning (completed discussion papers with executive summaries are attached as Appendices C and D respectively)
 - (2) Site identification and evaluation
 - (3) Peer review process

- (4) Business case development
- (5) Update on First Nations consultation/engagement
- (6) Marine environmental impact studies and wastewater characterization
- (7) Project schedule
- (8) 2009 project budget

- **Discussion Papers (Appendix C)**
- **Discussion Paper Summaries (Appendix D)**

The CRD remains committed to finding the best solution for wastewater treatment in the core area and west shore, one which satisfies the triple bottom line criteria of social, economic and environmental responsibility.

Based on the substantial progress made in 2008, and the work planned for 2009, I am confident that the CRD will provide you, on schedule, with the Liquid Waste Management Plan amendment you requested by the end of 2009.

The recent local government elections brought some new members to the Board table. The input of these directors may result in the introduction of new concepts, or the re-evaluation of some concepts we have provisionally adopted. These ideas will be incorporated in the next progress report to you in June 2009.

In the meantime, I would like to request a meeting with you and the Honourable Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Community Development, to discuss this progress report and how we will move forward in 2009.

Should you or your ministry staff have any questions about the attached documents, please have your staff contact Dwayne Kalynchuk, General Manager, Environmental Services, by telephone at 250-360-3092 or by e-mail at dkalynchuk@crd.bc.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Geoff Young
Board Chair

Attachments: 4

cc: CRD Board of Directors
Randy Alexander, Regional Environmental Protection Manager, Ministry of Environment
Kelly Daniels, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Dwayne Kalynchuk, General Manager, Environmental Services, CRD