



Making a difference...together

Environmental Services
625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000
Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 2S6

T: 250.360.3078
F: 250.360.3079
www.crd.bc.ca

December 10, 2009

The Honourable John Baird
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
Tower C, 330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5

Honourable Minister Baird:

RE: BUSINESS CASE IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR FUNDING - CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT CORE AREA AND WEST SHORE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROGRAM

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) it is my pleasure to formally submit our business case in support of the application for funding of the core area and west shore wastewater treatment program.

Our Board today approved this business case and in doing so brought this important project one step closer to reality. This document is the fruit of countless hours of work by staff, an outstanding team of consultants, and my colleagues on the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee. Most important, it is the fruit of over three years of study and community consultations and reflects the views, concerns and aspirations of the residents of our region.

Once this project is completed in 2016, the CRD will become the third major Canadian urban centre in a decade, after Halifax and St. John's, to end the practice of releasing partially treated or untreated sewage into the marine environment.

Completion of this project will allow the region to meet the newly mandated wastewater effluent targets set by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. In addition, because of its scope, visibility and use of leading-edge technologies and practices, the project has the potential to change the way Canadians think of wastewater, not as something to dispose but as a resource to utilize.

The scope of this project means it would be it very difficult, if not impossible, to finance entirely from local property taxes. A project of this size, if financed solely from the property tax, would limit the capacity of our region to undertake other major capital projects for years to come and impose a crippling burden on local property taxpayers. That is why this project must continue to develop as an intergovernmental partnership.

The federal government's ongoing support has been critical in getting us to where we are today. It will continue to be critical in getting us to our final destination.

We look forward to your review of our application and to a positive response.

Should you or your ministry staff have any questions about the attached documents, please have your staff contact Dwayne Kalynchuk, Project Director, Core Area Wastewater Treatment, by telephone at 250-360-3092 or by e-mail at dkalynchuk@crd.bc.ca

Yours sincerely,


Geoff Young
CRD Board Chair

Attachments: 1

c Minister Barry Penner, Minister of Environment
Minister Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development

bcc

Randy Alexander, Regional Environmental Protection Manager, Ministry of Environment
Mike Furey, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community and Rural Development
CRD Board of Directors
Kelly Daniels, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Dwayne Kalynchuk, Project Director, Wastewater Treatment, CRD