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Sewage sites can still change

The Capital Regional District's core area liquid waste management committee approved an amendment to the waste treatment plan on Nov. 25. The amendment will go to the CRD board for approval before being submitted to the province.

To ensure maximum federal and provincial contributions to the wastewater project — one-third from each government — the province's Dec. 31 deadline had to be met.

The CRD has repeatedly been told by federal officials to submit an application for funding, through an amendment, or face reduced funding potential in future.

Submitting the amendment by the deadline is a fiscal responsibility. The CRD is required to own or have first right of refusal for any lands named as potential sites in the plan.

The system, planned with careful attention to social, economic and environmental concerns, will feature significant resource recovery opportunities.

Investigations of alternate sites are still taking place. The CRD is investigating an upper harbour site for an energy centre and possibly as an alternate location for the McLoughlin treatment plant. Combining biosolids processing and wastewater treatment on one parcel would save money and increase the opportunity for resource recovery.

As well, the CRD is working with the University of Victoria and the municipality of Saanich on alternate sites for the Saanich East-North Oak Bay plant, as it recognizes that greater opportunities for energy and water recovery, as well as reduced environmental impact, would benefit this community.

The CRD is not currently in control of any other potential sites. If research concludes that an alternative site might be better, then the CRD might attempt to secure that site and amend the plan.

To secure funding for the project as a whole, the CRD has completed the wastewater amendment. It states changes to site locations are a possibility, which both the CRD and higher governments allow for.

However, a plan for wastewater treatment now has a functional shape. Judy Brownoff Chair, core area liquid waste committee Saanich councillor and CRD director

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