



Project Update

CENTRAL SECTOR LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN



OPTIONS UNDER REVIEW FOR MOVING TREATED EFFLUENT OUTFALL FROM COWICHAN RIVER

The process of amending the current Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan (CSLWMP) to allow for relocating an existing treated effluent outfall from the Cowichan River has been launched by the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) with partners: the City of Duncan, Municipality of North Cowichan and Cowichan Tribes.

An amendment to the CSLWMP is required in part due to reduced summer water flows in the Cowichan River, the changing course of the river in the area of the existing outfall, and a commitment made to Cowichan Tribes as part of a lease agreement to remove the outfall from the river.

"It is critical that the CVRD and its partners start the process of moving this outfall," said CVRD Board Chair Jon Lefebure. "Funding opportunities are available this year that make this project a priority. There are still many steps to take in the coming months before any proposed change take place."

Developed in 1999, the original CSLWMP outlines community-supported strategies for managing wastewater in Duncan, North Cowichan, Electoral Area D – Cowichan Bay, Electoral Area E – Cowichan Station/Sahtlam/Glenora, and part of Cowichan Tribes land. A recommendation to relocate the outfall (which transports treated wastewater effluent from the Joint Utilities Board sewage treatment plant to the river) is included in the plan. In 1999, when the CSLWMP was developed, technical studies recommended evaluating Satellite Channel as a potential outfall location. Since then, the CSLWMP Public and Technical Advisory Committee, which includes members of the public, has supported pursuing further study of this and other options. In January 2015, Great Pacific Engineering and Environment Ltd. were hired by the CVRD to undertake technical studies to assess potential outfall locations.

A project info page has been set up at www.cvrld.bc.ca/lwmp. Starting in late March, the CVRD will host a series of stakeholder infosessions, place displays at community and recreation centres, and provide online project updates. To receive updates by e-mail, please contact cslwmp@cvrd.bc.ca.

WHAT IS THE CENTRAL SECTOR LWMP?

A liquid waste management plan (LWMP) is a guidance document that outlines solutions for managing wastewater (ie: sewage).

LWMPs are developed through extensive public consultation processes led by a local government and are tailored to meet the specific needs of the community. The Cowichan Valley Regional District's (CVRD) Central Sector LWMP was developed in 1999, to serve the City of Duncan, Municipality of North Cowichan, Electoral Areas 'D' and 'E,' and part of Cowichan Tribes land. The existing sewage infrastructure collects wastewater from these areas and treats it via a secondary treatment plant, the Joint Utilities Board Sewage Treatment Plant, with final discharge to into the Cowichan River.

Learn more wastewater terms at: www.cvrld.bc.ca/lwmp

Amending a LWMP doesn't happen overnight – it's a multi-year project. This graphic shows the overall timeline.



IMPROVING OPERATIONS AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT: WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED

The existing outfall in the Cowichan River isn't a long-term option for discharging treated effluent. Moving it helps address various issues. Why is change needed?

- There are periods when there isn't enough water flow to dilute treated effluent according to provincial requirements. Low flows are expected to continue and get worse in future;
- A lease agreement with Cowichan Tribes for the land where the treatment plant is located includes a commitment to move the outfall from the river by 2021;
- Outfall infrastructure is at risk of damage caused by log jams and gravel bars in its current location;
- Moving the outfall from the river is a step towards reopening shellfish harvesting areas in Cowichan Bay;
- Relocating the outfall would include constructing a pressure pipe to feed the outfall, creating opportunities for resource recovery (ie: use of reclaimed water for irrigation of forest lands, heat recovery for community energy projects).

PROJECT PARTNERS:



WHAT'S NEXT?

- A project page has been set up at www.cvrld.bc.ca/lwmp with monthly updates.
- CVRD staff and partners are reviewing locations for a new outfall and progressing on an environmental impact assessment. While many options have been reviewed, to date only a few are under consideration.
- Community and stakeholder group outreach begins with spring infosessions and updates. Interested in learning more? Visit www.cvrld.bc.ca/lwmp or contact cslwmp@cvrd.bc.ca (tel) 250-746-2530.

This update has been issued by CVRD Engineering. Watch for monthly updates on the CSLWMP amendment project through the spring of 2015.