



# Project Update

## CENTRAL SECTOR LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Community members came together to learn more about a proposed amendment to the Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan at an infosession held in March.

### STAKEHOLDERS GET STARTED ON REVIEWING PROPOSED LWMP AMENDMENT

Consultation with stakeholder groups and members of the public is now underway for a proposed amendment to the the Cowichan Valley Regional District's (CVRD) Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan (CSLWMP).

The CVRD, in partnership with Cowichan Tribes, Municipality of North Cowichan and City of Duncan is currently pursuing the amendment which would move the existing treated sewage outfall from its current location in the Cowichan River to a new location.

A LWMP amendment process is complex and involves a technical review as well as consultation. Last month, the project team started the public outreach component of this amendment work, including hosting the first of a series of three infosessions. This event brought together representatives of groups with a stated or obvious interest in the outfall location and members of the public that have expressed interest in participating. Discussions are continuing as well with area First Nations.

"We've had great feedback from the outreach and consultation process that's been undertaken to date – stakeholders have shared insightful comments, asked good questions, and expressed appreciation for the amount of information that's been shared," said CVRD Board Chair Jon Lefebure. "All of this consultation work will ensure that we arrive at the best solution for our region."

While the public outreach continues, the project team is also working to advance the technical review work to assess any proposed new outfall options. A discharge to Satellite Channel is currently the preferred option. The review work includes preliminary assessments of the ocean environment, evaluation of discharge locations and consideration of existing regulations.

There is still much more to come. Public consultation will continue this month with a second infosession and the installation of information displays in community centres and municipal halls. Review work continues with the assessment of Satellite Channel and to follow-up further on other areas of interest to stakeholders.

The LWMP amendment will likely be drafted by June 2015 and will be submitted to the province for review and approval. However, before an outfall is constructed, additional environmental assessment will be required.

For more information, visit [www.cvrld.bc.ca/lwmp](http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/lwmp) or email [cslwmp@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:cslwmp@cvrd.bc.ca).

### WHAT'S NEXT?

- The project team is working to finalize Stage 1 of the Environmental Impact Study. This uses existing information to determine a general location for the outfall terminus that protects environmental and human health, helps identify what site-specific/field data may be needed in Stage 2 of the EIS and predicts water quality around the outfall terminus to recommend a baseline monitoring program.
- Routing for the new outfall pipe is also in early stages of planning but an early proposal identifies a route along Tzouhalem Road, the causeway to the marine terminal in the Cowichan River estuary and the seabed of Cowichan Bay. The challenges of narrow rights of way, presence of existing utilities, and environmentally sensitive areas – among others – have been identified with this option, and more work is underway to identify alternate route options.
- Cost estimates are being updated for the project, which has been estimated to cost between \$22.8-\$26.5 million. These estimates are being updated to reflect revised population projection numbers.

## CONSIDERING THE OPTIONS: REVIEWING NEW OUTFALL LOCATIONS

Due to changing climate, reduced summer river flows and a lease agreement commitment to Cowichan Tribes to move the outfall, the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is proposing to amend the Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan (CSLWMP) to authorize relocation of the existing Joint Utilities Board (JUB) treated effluent discharge location from the Cowichan River.

A number of options for new outfall locations have been identified and assessed. Many of these options have been rejected because of challenges that make them unfeasible.

- a. Disposal to ground: While this offered a non-marine discharge option that would include natural filtration as part of the treatment process, there was no location in the area with sufficient buffers from drinking water wells. This option is no longer being considered.
- b. Reuse as irrigation: While this offered an opportunity to reuse the resource, it requires extremely large storage space during the area's 8 month wet weather period. This option is no longer being considered.
- c. Disposal to other surface waters: Consideration of Quamichan or Somenos Lake offered a non-marine discharge option close to JUB with lower routing costs – however it was found both lakes are sensitive to nutrient enrichment and algae growth and therefore this option is not being considered further.
- d. Route to Catalyst Paper Crofton for reuse: A new treatment plant and pipe would have to be built, increasing costs significantly, and there would not be enough flow to contribute to the mill's use. This is not being considered further.
- e. Route to Catalyst Paper Crofton for treatment/discharge: While this option offers to tie into existing infrastructure, there are significant questions about the long-term viability of relying on private infrastructure for this service as well as the ability for the Catalyst system to meet provincial and federal regulatory requirements with the addition of wastewater from JUB. This option continues to be investigated.
- f. Marine outfall to Satellite Channel: This offers the best option for high dilution and minimizes risk to environment and humans. It improves the possibility of reopening shellfish harvesting in Cowichan Bay and is also the most cost effective. Siting would require meeting all standards to protect aquaculture and fisheries as well as human health. Investigation into this option continues.

### WHAT IS EFFLUENT?

**Effluent:** The treated liquid remaining at the end of the wastewater treatment process, which meets a standard required by the BC Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada for the protection of human health and the environment. This includes dilution of the effluent for an added buffer of safety. Learn more wastewater terms at [www.cvrld.bc.ca/lwmp](http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/lwmp).

### ABOUT SATELLITE CHANNEL

*Satellite Channel is right now the preferred discharge option given preliminary reviews and support from the public and technical advisory committee. Finding a location in the area though, takes some work. Consulting engineers working with the CVRD have identified shellfish beds, fishing areas, required buffers and freighter anchorages while beginning early assessments of where there are sufficient currents and depth to protect the environment. One proposal suggests placing it off the Vancouver Island coast across from Separation Point. The project team is continuing to assess location outfall options. The impacts of the removal of one of the anchorage berths is being reviewed, as is the possibility of extending the outfall further to the embayment line. The location of the outfall is an important part of the public consultation process.*

### PROJECT PARTNERS:



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

Learn more:  
[www.cvrld.bc.ca/lwmp](http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/lwmp)  
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