

Cost Information for Residents

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is currently pursuing an amendment to the Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) to move the existing outfall from the Cowichan River to a new location.

The CVRD, in partnership with Cowichan Tribes, Municipality of North Cowichan and City of Duncan, has undertaken engineering and environmental review of the options, and consulted with stakeholders, community groups and the public. Through this work Satellite Channel has been identified as the most feasible and sustainable option for relocating the outfall to discharge the treated effluent.

HOW MUCH WILL THE PROJECT COST TO CONSTRUCT?

The project will involve installing a new pipe from the existing treatment facility to the new outfall to better serve approximately 12,200 homes. Preliminary estimates for the cost of the project is \$26.5 million. The cost will be divided among project partners based on usage rates. This means that property owners in each partner area will pay their fair share of the total amount based on the amount of flow their area contributes. This estimate is based on preliminary information and will be further confirmed before construction begins.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO RATEPAYERS?

Funds for the project will be borrowed and will need to be repaid. For ratepayers in the areas serviced by the plan, it will mean an increase in their annual wastewater service bill. Depending on where your home is, the cost increase is expected to be between \$29-\$125/year. Where residents and homeowners now pay between \$278-\$491/year that could go up to \$403-\$606/year. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2018. The costs to ratepayers won't change until the project is complete.

HOW IS THE CVRD WORKING TO REDUCE THE COST?

The CVRD is actively seeking grant funding from the federal government to offset the proposed cost of the project. There are currently two applications submitted which could offer 50% funding to selected projects. Grant funding would substantially reduce costs for residents to be potentially \$10-\$62/year. However there are no guarantees those funds will be received. The project team continues to seek other cost reduction options.

ANNUAL SERVICE FEE INCREASE (ESTIMATE BY AREA)	DUNCAN	NORTH COWICHAN	CVRD EAGLE HEIGHTS	CVRD COWICHAN BAY
Annual service fee increase estimate, if approved	\$125	\$29	\$104	\$115
Annual service fee increase estimate, if 50% funding received	\$62	\$10	\$52	\$57

NOTE: These estimates are currently Class D estimates with +/- 50% level of accuracy. All estimates will be refined and are based on anticipated borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority at 6.6% interest over 20 years.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE? HOW CAN I PROVIDE INPUT?

Learn more about the Central Sector LWMP Amendment process at www.cvr.bc.ca/lwmp. Watch for monthly newsletters and community info session dates which will be posted online and in local papers. The project team can also be contacted at 250-746-2530 or CSLWMP@cvrd.bc.ca