



Project Update

CENTRAL SECTOR LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN



COST ESTIMATES FOR PROPOSED OUTFALL MOVE SHARED WITH THE COMMUNITY

With a preferred solution identified and research progressing, the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD)'s Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan (CSLWMP) amendment project team is reaching out to the community to share estimated costs of moving the existing treated effluent outfall from the Cowichan River to a new location.

The CVRD, in partnership with the Cowichan Tribes, Municipality of North Cowichan and City of Duncan is pursuing an amendment to the CSLWMP which would authorize relocation of the Joint Utilities Board's treated effluent outfall from the Cowichan River to a new ocean outfall location. The move is required in part due to a lease agreement with Cowichan Tribes and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the outfall, which is currently challenged by low river levels during dry periods.

Over the past three months, the project team has been reviewing options for a new treated effluent discharge and have identified a location in Satellite Channel as the most viable option. The estimated cost for the project is roughly \$26.5 million and it will serve over 12,200 homes. Because the cost of the project will be divided among project partners based on percentage of use, cost per homeowner depends on the area where they live and is currently estimated to result in an annual increase of \$29-\$125 per property owner. The increase could drop to \$10-\$62 if funding applications are successful.

Consultations with the community, stakeholder groups and partners have been underway since March, with introductory meetings starting prior to that. Among the topics of discussion have been the importance of protecting the marine environment, standards of treatment required, and potential outfall locations. The amendment is expected to be drafted by the end of June and will go to the province for consideration.

On June 2, 2015, a public and stakeholder infosession will be held in the Mesachie Room at the Island Savings Centre from 7-9 pm. The event will include a presentation about project work to date and estimated costs. An open discussion and refreshments will follow.

A project information page has been set up at www.cvrld.bc.ca/lwmp. To receive updates by e-mail, please contact the CVRD at cslwmp@cvrd.bc.ca or call 250.746.2530.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Review ideas for routing the new pipe to the proposed outfall. This includes consideration of existing road conditions and ways to minimize environmental impact.
- Continue discussions with First Nations, stakeholders and partners, and provide updated information to the public on the project web page.
- Draft the amended LWMP in June and submit to the provincial government for review. If approved, additional environmental analysis, logistical and construction planning will be needed before work begins.

ESTIMATED SERVICE FEE INCREASES BY AREA

Today's annual fees for wastewater service in Duncan, North Cowichan and the CVRD (Eagle Heights, Cowichan Bay) range from \$250-\$490 (approx.). The following table provides estimates for increases to annual service fees in these areas if the project proceeds.

	DUNCAN	NORTH COWICHAN	CVRD – EAGLE HEIGHTS	CVRD – COWICHAN BAY
Estimated increase to annual service fee if approved	\$125	\$29	\$104	\$115
Estimated increase to annual service fee if 50% grant funding is received	\$62	\$10	\$52	\$57

** Estimates are based on borrowing through the Municipal Finance Authority, 6.6 % over 20 years. Based on Class D estimate (+/- 50%). These are preliminary estimates that can be used for discussion and early evaluation of options, and to initiate the approvals process.*

UPDATE ON REMAINING OPTIONS

The relocation of the outfall is a priority for the CVRD and their JUB partners. Research has been undertaken over a number of years to assess possible solutions for a new treated wastewater discharge. Last month, this newsletter provided an overview of the six main options including reuse of treated effluent as irrigation or discharging to ground. To review that information, please see the Infographic – Options Review – or April 2015 Project Update Newsletter at www.cvrld.bc.ca/lwmp.

Two remaining options were under consideration. Following feedback from stakeholders and the community, further investigation took place to answer remaining questions. This research has led to the Catalyst Paper Crofton option also being eliminated from further consideration. Below are updates on those two options.

Catalyst Paper Crofton for Treatment and Discharge

The Option: Pipe wastewater to onsite treatment system at existing Catalyst Paper Crofton (mill), accessing the existing treatment and approved outfall.

New Information: Since the last update, further review has found that Catalyst Paper's existing discharge permit would need to be changed to permit treating more domestic sewage. It's also been found that the existing treatment system would not work properly with just domestic sewage. Due to the cost and regulatory challenges these create, this option is not being pursued further.

Marine Outfall (Satellite Channel)

The Option: Use marine environment as receiving waters. Satellite Channel offers the best opportunities for ocean outfall.

New Information: To avoid shellfish beds, wild fishery areas, commercial anchor berths and other potentially sensitive areas, a location off the Vancouver Island coast across from Separation Point has been identified as a feasible and acceptable location. The project team reviewed the option of extending a discharge pipe to the embayment line of Cowichan Bay and found that it would create significant additional risk and cost but provide no additional environmental benefit.

Given all of the research to date, the Satellite Channel option is the preferred option moving forward.

WHAT IS A LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (LWMP)?

A local government-led process to develop solutions for wastewater management and other liquid waste issues (eg. non-point source pollution) that meet or exceed existing regulations and are tailored specifically to meet the needs of the community. Final plans are approved by the provincial Ministry of Environment only after sufficient public and stakeholder consultation takes place.

The existing Central Sector LWMP, which the CVRD and partners are proposing to amend, was approved in 1999.

PROJECT PARTNERS:



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

*Learn more: www.cvrld.bc.ca/lwmp
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Tel: 250-746-2530*