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September 22, 2017

File No. 5340-30-TCS/01

Dear Customer:

The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) would like to update customers on proposed upgrades to the Twin Cedars Sewer System.

The Twin Cedars Sewer System currently services the Twin Cedars residential community, Evergreen Independent School, and various commercial properties in the Cobble Hill Village. Properties that have recently been included into the Twin Cedars Service Area include the Clements Center and the Cedars Rehabilitation Center. The treated sewage produced by the wastewater plant is used for irrigation at the Quarry Nature Park and in the public washroom to flush the toilets. As the Twin Cedars wastewater treatment facility can treat more wastewater than it currently treats the CVRD is exploring the idea of combining two CVRD-operated sewer systems.

The CVRD operates 16 sewer systems located throughout the regional district and two of these systems are within Cobble Hill; Twin Cedars Sewer System and Cobble Hill Sewer System. One of the long-term goals of the CVRD is to combine smaller systems into bigger, centrally located treatment plants. Larger systems, with more customers, are much more cost effective to operate than several small systems, each with a small customer base. Cobble Hill Sewer System is at the end of its lifecycle and requires major upgrade work. Combining Cobble Hill Sewer System with Twin Cedars Sewer System has been investigated and is explained in further detail below.

Combining Cobble Hill Sewer System with Twin Cedars Sewer System

The Cobble Hill Sewer System services 84 properties located off Galliers road in Cobble Hill. The sewer system was constructed in 1995 and is nearing the end of its lifecycle. The CVRD has recently completed emergency repairs to the system providing a short-term solution but a long-term solution is required. Combining Twin Cedars Sewer System and Cobble Hill Sewer System provides benefits to both communities. The major benefit for Twin Cedars customers is reduced users rates as a result of more customers joining the system and contributing to the operational, maintenance and capital cost of running the system. An estimated reduction of up to \$200/year/customer may be possible.

If the two systems were combined the treatment plant at Cobble Hill Sewer System would be eliminated and the wastewater pumped to the Twin Cedars plant for treatment. The treated sewage would return to the Twin Cedars or Cobble Hill Sewer System's disposal fields for ground disposal (during times when the treated sewage is not used for irrigation at the park).

To accommodate the additional wastewater flow from Cobble Hill Sewer System, some upgrades are required to the Twin Cedars Wastewater treatment plant. The cost for these upgrades would be paid for by the customers of Cobble Hill Sewer System. A significant benefit to Twin Cedars customers is the proposed upgrade includes the addition of a Purafil odour control unit to the Twin Cedars treatment plant. The Purafil unit is used at other CVRD-operated sewer systems and provides superior odour control. The construction on new Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs) for ground disposal at the existing Cobble Hill Sewer System's disposal field would be part of the project. The RIB would provide additional disposal area for the treated wastewater.

The treated sewage produced by Twin Cedars Sewer System is used for irrigation water for the lawns at Quarry Nature Park and also in the public washrooms to flush the toilets. In the summer the amount of treated sewage produced by Twin Cedars is not enough to supply all the irrigation needs for the park and domestic water from Cobble Hill Improvement District is used to supplement the irrigation needs of the park. The additional wastewater from Cobble Hill Sewer System would benefit the irrigation of the park and lessen the strain on the domestic water supply.

At this point, the option of combining the Cobble Hill Sewer System with Twin Cedars Sewer System is conceptual and we welcome any feedback from the community. Further information will be provided to customers at a community meeting that we will schedule for the Fall 2017 or early 2018. This will give the opportunity for customers to ask questions and provide feedback to CVRD staff. Once the meeting date has been scheduled we will notify customers through a notice that will be sent in the mail.

Please contact me at 250.746.2530 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Dennison".

Brian Dennison, P.Eng., Manager
Water Management Division
Engineering Services

LD:dm

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