

**DATE:** June 18, 2020

**FILE:** 5360-30/Organics

**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board

Supported by James Warren  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**FROM:** James Warren  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

*J. Warren*

**RE: Regional Organics Compost Project – June 2020**

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### **Purpose**

To provide an update on the Regional Organics Compost Project (the Project).

### **Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

For information only.

### **Executive Summary**

This update summarizes progress made on the Project over the past several months. Topics focus on grant funding, feedstock commitment, permit requirements and project procurement.

#### Grant funds

- On May 25, 2020, the New Building Canada Fund (NBCF) approved the request for time extension up to March 2022, and informed that the decision to move the processing facility to another location is at the sole discretion of the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) service.
- Grant funds include:
  - \$5.5 Million from the NBCF
  - \$0.9 Million from the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund Organic Infrastructure Program

#### Food and yard waste feedstock commitment

- The City of Courtenay, Town of Comox and the Village of Cumberland have confirmed feedstock for the new facility based on the range of estimated tipping fees.
- A response from the City of Campbell River is expected shortly.

#### Procurement process

- The procurement process for both the organics processing facility as well as the transfer station is ongoing.

#### Processing facility:

- In March 2020, three design-build teams were selected based on their experience in design, construction and commissioning similar facilities. After which, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued for the design and construction of the processing facility.
- At the request of proponents, the Organics Processing Facility RFP closing date has been extended to July 23, 2020 and substantial performance of work to December 31, 2021.
- This will delay delivery of the facility from September 2021 to January 2022 (four months).

- A recommendation to the CSWM Board regarding a contract award for design and construction is planned for September 2020.

Transfer Station:

- A traditional design-bid-build approach is being implemented in order to minimize risks related to Covid-19 travel restrictions and increase local firms' interest.

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MoE) permits

- The CSWM Board directed staff to proceed with the targeted amendment of the Solid Waste Management Plan as required by the MoE for the construction of the organics processing facility and transfer station.
- In March 2020, CSWM staff met with staff from MoE who provided guidelines and expectations to ensure permitting requirements under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR).
- An OMRR permit application will be submitted to the MoE early in 2021, once the facility design concept is complete.

Geotechnical investigation

- Geotechnical assessments for the processing facility and transfer station have been completed in May and June 2020.
- This work helps to ensure a thorough understanding of the civil and structural requirements for the design of these facilities, and supports more accurate pricing.
- The report concludes there are no major concerns regarding the soil bearing capacity in either of the two locations.

Next steps and timing:

- Recommendation of processing facility and transfer station contract award, September 2020.
- Installation of new groundwater monitoring wells at the Campbell River Waste Management Centre Block J and groundwater assessment, fall 2020.
- Processing facility and transfer station design, fall 2020.
- Phase 2 public engagement, winter 2021 – presenting the design.
- Regulatory approvals, winter 2021.
- Construction, 2021.
- Phased in operation, January 2022 to April 2022.

Project roadmap and timeline included as Appendix A.

Prepared by:

***G. Bau***

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Gabriel Bau, P.Eng.  
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Concurrence:

***M. Rutten***

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Marc Rutten, P.Eng.  
General Manager of Engineering  
Services

**Government Partners and Stakeholder Distribution**

City of Campbell River	✓
City of Courtenay	✓
Town of Comox	✓
Village of Cumberland	✓

Attachments: Appendix A – “Project Timeline”

# The Road to Regional Organics



Fall 2019

Board decision - siting the facility

Winter 2020

Public consultation

September 2020

Board decision - contract award

Fall 2020

Facility design

Winter 2021

Public consultation - design

Winter 2021

Regulatory approvals

Summer 2021

Construction

Winter - Spring 2022

Public education

Winter - Spring 2022

Phased in curbside collection and commissioning

Summer 2022

Facility fully operational

