

DATE: June 13, 2018

FILE: 5620-00

TO: Chair and Members
Black Creek – Oyster Bay Services Committee

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: Existing Use Groundwater Licencing for Black Creek – Oyster Bay Wells

Purpose

To update the Black Creek – Oyster Bay (BCOB) Services Committee on the recent submission of Existing Use Groundwater Licence Application for the BCOB Water System wells.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

This report is for information purposes only.

Executive Summary

Under the new Water Sustainability Act brought into effect February 29, 2016, existing non-domestic groundwater users must apply for authorization to lawfully continue to divert and use water from an aquifer. There are approximately 20,000 existing non-domestic groundwater users in BC. Applications submitted prior to March 1, 2019 will retain their position in the first-in-time, first-in-right priority system, and will also have their one-time application fees waived.

The Comox Valley Regional District’s Existing Use Groundwater Application for both of the existing wells in the BCOB Water System was prepared by GW Solutions, and submitted in February, 2017, prior to the application deadline. A response from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has not yet been received. If a new well is brought online in Black Creek in the future, a new licence for that well will need to be applied for.

A water licence specifies the water source, the water use purpose, the maximum quantity of water that may be used, and the works associated with the water use, as well as where the water can be used. Water use may be restricted to certain times of the year.

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