

770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay, BC V9N 0G8
Tel: 250-334-6000 Fax: 250-334-4358
Toll free: 1-800-331-6007
www.comoxvalleyrd.ca



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Sent via email only: rdyson@comoxvalleyrd.ca
dleitch@srd.ca

Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer
Comox Valley Regional District
770 Harmston Avenue
Courtenay, BC V9N 0G8

David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer
Strathcona Regional District
#301-990 Cedar Street
Campbell River, B.C. V9W 7Z8

Russell and David:

Re: Highway Rest Stop Amenities

I am writing to request your assistance with bringing forward a matter to your respective Boards for their consideration.

At the October 21, 2021 regular meeting of the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Board, a report was received regarding the role of local government and potential installation of garbage receptacles and collection at popular beach locations within the service area. While increasing litter and improper waste disposal at beaches and other regional destinations is concerning, the core functions of the CSWM Service is the management of waste and recycled materials at its two landfills and transfer stations that service the Comox Valley and Strathcona regions, providing oversight of the multi-material recycling programs as well as overseeing a range of education programs. In this regard, the service does not manage waste bins, nor the collection of waste.

In general, waste collection is provided by individual municipal or regional district functions (e.g. public works, parks) or the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) at certain highway locations within public right-of-ways. For the CSWM Service or other local governments, providing roadside garbage receptacles and collection at certain destinations such as popular beach access points is a costly and complex proposition with the need for staff resources to manage such operations and also proper authorization in the form of a licence of occupation, permit or agreement for use.

In light of the existing waste collection services provided by local governments and the MOTI, it is appropriate that this matter be considered by the Comox Valley Regional District and Strathcona Regional District individually in relation to the issues each jurisdiction faces and their specific services and interests. Further, it appears that an opportunity may exist to address this by advocating to the MOTI to expand existing highway rest stop amenities to include additional locations. This type of advocacy should also be considered by each regional district board, rather than through the CSWM Service – for reasons noted above.

To assist with your Board's consideration, a potential resolution regarding this matter for submission to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities 2022 Convention is offered. As this is merely a suggested format for potential advocacy, please adapt to suit your specific needs and interests.

Highway Rest Stop Amenities

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure maintains a network of rest areas along highways that include public amenities such as washrooms and waste receptacles;

AND WHEREAS increased travel and tourism throughout the province has led to rest areas and roadside stops, many without such services and facilities, being inundated with litter and general waste that pollutes adjacent forests, beaches and waters;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the UBCM request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to work with local governments, including regional districts and municipalities, to identify additional locations for provincial highway amenities to be established

Finally, as the CSWM Board will be considering this matter at its December 2, 2021 meeting, please confirm the outcome of your Board's deliberations on this matter at your soonest convenience so that our efforts are aligned and coordinated.

Sincerely,



James Warren
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Jake Martens, General Manager of Corporate Services, Comox Valley Regional District
Tom Yates, Senior Manager, Corporate Services, Strathcona Regional District