

DATE: August 4, 2021

FILE: 5330-20/CVSS LWMP

TO: Chair and Directors
Comox Valley Sewage Commission

FROM: James Warren
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by James Warren
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

J. Warren

RE: Sewer System Conveyance Project - Scope Finalization Timing and Deliverables

Purpose

To provide an update on the current assessment work underway for the Sewer System Conveyance Project (SSCP) and timing of the decision for finalizing the project scope.

Recommendation from the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer:

For information purposes only.

Executive Summary

HDR Inc. is the owner's engineer for the design-build portion of the SSCP and are in the process of completing a number of key project assessments to facilitate confirmation of the project scope in fall 2021. These assessments include:

- Review the feasibility of the horizontal directional drill (HDD) locations through Lazo Hill and completion of a preliminary analysis of the alignment.
- Analysis of the Comox Hill alignment, possible HDD entry and exit pit locations, and options for optimization—including hydraulic grade line assessment to confirm HDD is preferred over cut and cover.
- Evaluation of the feasibility of reusing the existing Courtenay pump station, including flood proofing, geotechnical and structural considerations.
- Completion of a siting option analysis if the Courtenay pump station is not found to be suitable for reuse.
- Analysis of an alternative alignment along Comox Rd from Urquhart Creek to Bayside Dr., including through K'ómoks First Nation (KFN) IR#1, in light of archaeological concerns

Following completion of the assessments noted above, a report will be brought forward to the Sewage Commission summarizing the findings from HDR's work, and recommending any final changes prior to locking down the scope for initiation of procurement.

The remaining SSCP scope to be completed through the design-build process, including upgrades to the existing Jane Place and KFN pump stations, miscellaneous sections of cut and cover forcemain, and the tie in at the Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Centre, are not anticipated to change from what was previously communicated.

During fall 2021, the draft scope of work for the design-build process will be presented to the Sewage Commission before a public engagement on particular items of interest, including impacts around Lazo Hill and groundwater management. The finalized SSCP scope will then be presented to the Sewage Commission for approval. A broad engagement with the public on the Liquid Waste

Management Plan as a whole, including treatment and conveyance, is planned following the approved scope of work. See Citizen/Public Relations section below.

Preliminary design for the cut and cover section of the design-bid-build portion of the project through the Town of Comox is being reviewed by Town staff over the summer. Key scope elements and principles for that part of the project will be embedded in a memorandum of understanding between the Comox Valley Regional District and Town of Comox that will be brought forward for review by the Sewage Commission in late fall.

Prepared by:

Concurrence:

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Government Partners and Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)

City of Courtenay	✓
Town of Comox	✓
K’ómoks First Nation	✓
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy	✓

Citizen/Public Relations

This project is the result of a significant public engagement effort, through the Liquid Waste Management Plan, and will require continued public engagement through to project completion. The proposed infrastructure crosses through K’ómoks First Nation IR#1, along an area with high archaeological potential, through the heart of the Town of Comox and underneath Lazo North (Electoral Area B), whose residents rely on groundwater sources for drinking water supply. Managing communications with all stakeholders on this project will be key to its success.

The timeline below details engagement efforts from April 2021 through early 2022 on this project.

Ongoing

- Engagement with KFN on project milestones, archaeological mitigation along pipe route and compliance with Cultural Heritage Policy.
- Responding directly to concerns from residents via phone, email and Zoom – or in-person where health and safety guidelines are met.
- Continued outreach to participants of Electoral Area B groundwater monitoring program.
- Engagement with municipal staff, including finalizing alignment through the Town of Comox.

Complete

- ✓ Produce backgrounder handout and provide key messages about the proposed conveyance project for front line municipal and CVRD staff (April 2021)
- ✓ Respond to inquiries from the public about impact to tax bills (April 2021)
- ✓ Video posted to project page highlighting benefits of the project and explaining how it will be funded and how residents can participate in the Alternate Approval Process (AAP) (April 2021)
- ✓ Online meeting/webinar for Lazo residents to discuss groundwater monitoring program, technical and safety considerations for tunnelling, examples of similar projects in other

jurisdictions, emergency response plans and next steps to finalize alignment and right-of-way negotiations. (May 2021).

- ✓ Annual AAP campaign rollout including print advertisements, news release and social media promotion (May 2021).
- ✓ Communicate AAP results (July 2021).
- ✓ Update the public about the next steps for sewer conveyance via press release, social media, website and online newsletter (July 2021).
- ✓ Brand project as Sewer System Conveyance Project, with the LWMP retaining its project pages and existing materials (July 2021).

Planned

- Following Sewage Commission review, hold open house and online meeting with Electoral Area B residents to present proposed alignment, potential construction impacts and groundwater policy (Fall 2021).
- Report back to Sewage Commission on Electoral Area B feedback with proposed project scope and groundwater policy (Winter 2021).
- Public open house and online meetings to provide an overview of the LWMP process including final conveyance route maps (Early 2022).
- Finalize pre-construction engagement and project timeline, including a focus on Town of Comox businesses and residents who will be impacted (Early 2022).