

**DATE:** September 7, 2017

**FILE:** 5340-02

**TO:** Chair and Members  
Comox Valley Sewage Commission

**FROM:** Russell Dyson,  
Chief Administrative Officer

**RE:** Comox No. 2 Pump Station Project – Project Update

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### **Purpose**

To update the Comox Valley Sewage Commission on progress towards completion of investigations to resolve potential red flags associated with the Comox No. 2 pump station (Comox No. 2) project pre-implementation phase in advance of final results and an implementation recommendation in October 2017.

### **Policy Analysis**

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) operates a sewerage service primarily for the City of Courtenay and Town of Comox, established by Bylaw No. 2541, being the “Comox Valley Sewerage Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2451, 2003”.

At its January 21, 2017 meeting, the Comox Valley Sewage Commission approved the following recommendation:

*THAT as a result of a competitive process, the contract for the owners engineer services for the pre-implementation phase of the Comox No. 2 pump station project be awarded to Opus International Consultants (Canada) Ltd. in the amount of \$168,496 excluding GST;*

*AND FURTHER THAT subsequent phases of the work including the implementation, construction and post-construction phases be awarded to Opus International Consultants (Canada) Ltd. at the Comox Valley Regional Districts discretion for a total overall cost of \$491,336 excluding GST;*

*AND FINALLY THAT the chair and corporate legislative officer be authorized to execute the contract.*

At its March 28, 2017 meeting, the CVRD Board approved the following recommendation:

*THAT as a result of a competitive process, the contract for the investigation and condition assessment of the raw wastewater forcemain be awarded to Pure Technologies Ltd. in the amount of \$449,123 excluding GST.*

### **Executive Summary**

Wastewater from the City of Courtenay and the Town of Comox is transmitted to the Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Centre (CVWPCC) through a large diameter forcemain that follows the shoreline from the Courtenay River estuary to Goose Spit, along Willemar Bluff and then on to the CVWPCC. The section along Willemar Bluff is subjected to especially harsh conditions and must be decommissioned to eliminate the risk of a catastrophic failure of the forcemain.

The Comox No. 2 project was initially conceived of in 2005 as part of the “Forcemain re-alignment Study” completed by CH2MHill in response to the uncovering of the forcemain along Willmar Bluffs in 2003. The project was further supported during the sewer master planning process as a way

to decommission the Willemar Bluffs section of forcemain by instead redirecting the wastewater flows through a new pump station up and over the Comox peninsula directly overland to the CVWPCC. This project would also serve to address capacity issues at the Courtenay and Jane Place pump stations.

Staff and consultants have been working to deliver the final results of several pieces of investigation in time to inform a decision on Comox No. 2 project, however the work is taking longer than expected as staff are intent that the Comox Valley Sewage Commission have all relevant information prior to recommending a path forward.

Potential red flags remaining at the beginning of the pre-implementation phase included: the condition of the foreshore forcemain from the Courtenay pump station to the location of the tie-in to a new Comox No. 2 pump station; the updated capital costs of the Comox No. 2 project, including the costs of all new associated forcemains; and the potential for the Comox No. 2 project to negatively impact the quality or quantity of well water in the surrounding neighborhood.

Preliminary results from the investigations as of early July 2017 were summarized in an update report to the Comox Valley Sewage Commission that month. The final results for all three investigations have now been received, and CVRD staff are analyzing the results and meeting with senior technical municipal staff to collaboratively develop a recommended path forward for the October 2017 Comox Valley Sewage Commission meeting.

**Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

This report is provided for information only.

Respectfully:

***R. Dyson***

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Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by:

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Concurrence:

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