

June 19, 2020

File: 5380-03

Chair and Commissioners
Comox Valley Sewage Commission

Dear Chair and Commissioners:

Re: Use of Skyrocket for Municipal Landscaping

As the Director for Electoral Area B, I am writing in regards to the ongoing utilization of the finished compost material produced as part of the Comox Strathonca Waste Managements (CSWM) organics collection pilot project within the Comox Valley.

As you are likely aware, this pilot program, operating since the summer of 2013, has been processing co-mingled food and yard waste collected from the Town of Comox and the Village of Cumberland as part of their curbside collection programs. The finished compost material has been made available to member municipalities free of charge, sold to the public and utilized as cover material for the closure of the historical cell at the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre (CVWMC).

While the provision of this zero-waste compost is an added benefit for the municipalities, I understand it is predominately being utilized in ornamental plantings, such as flower beds, shrubs and trees within municipal parks, boulevards and other property. With the ongoing pandemic driving tremendous interest back into local food production and backyard vegetable gardening, I believe this high-quality compost product should be utilized for this purpose and help address food insecurity, poverty and community health. Currently much of the available compost at the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre is being held back from public sale in anticipation of eventual demand by the municipalities.

With these considerations in mind, I am respectfully requesting that the local municipalities be encouraged to utilize the Comox Valley Sewage Service's Skyrocket compost for their use in ornamental plantings. Skyrocket appears to be an excellent soil amendment product that would suit this type of use very well and is available at a nominal cost.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Commission's consideration of the following:

THAT the Comox Valley Sewage Commission write to the municipalities of Comox, Courtenay and Cumberland to encourage their use of Skyrocket compost for use in their ornamental plantings, such as flower beds, shrubs and trees.

Sincerely,

A. Hamir

Arzeena Hamir
Director