

File: 0540-20/Sewage

March 15 2019

Chair and Members
Comox Valley Sewage Commission**Re: Sewage Commission Membership**

While properties within Electoral Area B are not connected to, and do not receive sewage service, a significant portion of wastewater infrastructure is located within its boundaries. Most notably, the Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Centre, located on Brent Road in Electoral Area B, processes wastewater for the communities of Courtenay, Comox and CFB Comox.

In operation since 1984, the facility and its associated infrastructure has to date provided no discernable service or benefit to the taxpayers of Electoral Area B but has presented ongoing direct impacts, including environmental, social and economic. While the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has implemented new technology and processes over the years, residents in the vicinity of the processing facility have faced persistent odour issues that have impacted their quality of life.

These types of infrastructure impacts were recognized by the Capital Regional District (CRD) and Township of Esquimalt with regard to the McLoughlin Point Wastewater Treatment Plant. In this instance, the CRD took reasonable measures to address the impacts and consequences from the plant's location within their boundaries through the negotiation of a host community impact agreement. The agreement includes a one-time CRD contribution of \$17 million and an annual community impact mitigation fee for the greater benefit of Esquimalt residents and businesses.

In the absence of such measures here in the CVRD, suitable representation from Electoral Area B on the Sewage Commission to meaningfully participate in the administration and operation of this service is needed. These interests were identified in the Utilities Governance Options Report dated July 9, 2018, which also noted whether a broader representation of the region (i.e. those who may be serviced in the future) should be included on issues regarding expansion of services.

Given the issues noted above, I request the commission's consideration of the following:

THAT staff be directed to bring forward an amendment to Bylaw No. 650 being "Sewage Commission Bylaw, 1983" to amend the membership to add the director for Electoral Area B as a voting member.

Sincerely,

A. HamirArzeena Hamir
Director