

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Residents Invited To Learn More About Treated Wastewater Outfall Relocation and Costs

Duncan, B.C. - Residents and property owners in the Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan (CSLWMP) area are invited to learn more about the estimated costs of moving the existing treated effluent outfall from the Cowichan River to a new location at a public information session. The event will be held on June 2 at the Island Savings Centre in the Mesachie Room from 7-9 pm and will include a presentation about the project work to date and estimated costs followed by an open question and answer session. Refreshments will be provided.

The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), in partnership with Cowichan Tribes, Municipality of North Cowichan and City of Duncan is pursuing an amendment to the CSLWMP which would authorize relocation of the Joint Utilities Board's treated effluent outfall from the Cowichan River. The relocation is a condition of the lease agreement with Cowichan Tribes. In addition, the outfall is currently challenged by low river flows during dry periods and can experience damage during high river flows.

"There has been a lot of discussion about the best outfall location and the necessary research required to create the strongest plan moving forward – but we know the rubber hits the road for people when we talk about cost, which is why we're reaching out to the community to get them involved in the consultation on this project," said CVRD Board Chair Jon Lefebure. "Now is the time for us to hear from them about the proposed plan and estimated costs."

Over the past three months, the project team has been reviewing options for a new treated effluent discharge and has identified a location in Satellite Channel as the most viable option. The estimated cost for the project is roughly \$26.5 million and it will serve over 12,200 homes. Because the cost of the project will be divided among project partners based on percentage of use, cost per homeowner depends on the area where they live and is currently estimated to result in an increase of between \$29-\$125/year per property owner. Those costs could drop to \$10-\$62/year per property if the project team's funding application is successful.

Consultations with the community, stakeholder groups and partners have been underway since March this year, with introductory meetings starting prior to that. Among the topics of discussion to date have been the importance of protecting the marine environment, standards of treatment required, and potential outfall location options. The amendment is expected to be drafted by the end of June and will go to the province for consideration.

A project information page has been set up at www.cvr.bc.ca/lwmp. To receive updates by email, please contact the CVRD at cslwmp@cvrd.bc.ca or call 250.746.2530.

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