

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Postponement of AAP for Cowichan River Watershed Management Service Bylaw

Duncan, BC – The Alternative Approval Process (AAP) in connection with Cowichan River Watershed Management Service Establishment Bylaw No. 3930 has been temporarily postponed in order to correct an omission of properties that should be included in the service area.

The properties in question, which include Catalyst Paper, are located in the Municipality of North Cowichan (MNC) but fall outside of the geographic boundary of the Cowichan watershed. These properties were to be included in the service area due to their reliance on water from the Cowichan River. However, in the process of incorporating property data from MNC into the legal description of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) service area, these properties were inadvertently omitted.

In order to revise the service area boundaries to include these omitted properties in Bylaw No. 3930, the CVRD Board of Directors will need to rescind the previously granted third reading and amend the Bylaw with the updated service area boundaries. Bylaw No. 3930 would be resubmitted to the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development for approval by the Inspector of Municipalities. Following approval by the Inspector, the Board will launch a new AAP, which is anticipated to commence in early 2016.

Bylaw No. 3930 is being established in order to provide the CVRD with the authority to undertake a range of initiatives and actions associated with addressing water storage and water quality issues in the Cowichan River basin as a result of increasing drought conditions.

The AAP provides an opportunity for residents to register their opposition to establishing this new service and if more than 10% (2,992) of the estimated 29,916 eligible voters within the proposed service area oppose Bylaw No. 3930, the Board must hold a referendum if they wish to proceed with adoption of Bylaw No. 3930.

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