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REPORT TO WILDERNESS MOUNTAIN WATER SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING OF THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

SUBJECT **Mid-Year Capital Projects and Operational Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission with capital project status reports and operational updates.

BACKGROUND

The Wilderness Mountain Water System is located near the top of Mount Matheson in East Sooke on Vancouver Island in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area and provides drinking water to approximately 74 customers. Capital Regional District (CRD) Infrastructure and Water Services is responsible for the overall operation of the water system, with day-to-day operation, maintenance, design and construction of water system facilities provided by the CRD Infrastructure, Planning and Engineering and Infrastructure Operations divisions. The quality of drinking water provided to customers in the Wilderness Mountain Water System is overseen by the CRD Water Quality division.

Capital Project Update

26-01 | Island Health Compliance Assessment

Project Description: This project involves completing an options analysis to identify and evaluate approaches to bring the Wilderness Mountain local water service area into compliance with Island Health requirements.

Project Rationale: In April 2026, Island Health issued an updated Operating Permit with conditions, including a compliance schedule aligned with the Ministry of Health's Surface Water Treatment Objectives (SWTO). First requirement of this schedule is the completion of an options study, including a cost analysis, by December 31, 2026.

Project Update and Milestones:

- In April 2026, a consultant was engaged through an existing standing offer to undertake the options analysis. The study will re-evaluate feasible approaches to achieving compliance, considering current regulatory requirements, system constraints, and available servicing alternatives.
- The scope of work includes a desktop review of previous studies and supporting documentation to confirm assumptions, findings, and recommendations. Building on this review, the consultant will develop 25-year lifecycle capital and operating cost estimates for viable options and provide a summary of key findings along with recommended next steps.
- The options study began in May 2026 and is anticipated to be completed within approximately 3 to 4 months.

25-03 | SCADA Communications Upgrade

Project Description: This project involves Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) communication improvements between Wilderness Mountain and Goldstream Water Treatment Plant.

Project Rationale: Better SCADA connectivity will allow for more reliable operational oversight from the permanently staffed Goldstream Water Treatment Plant and will provide more reliable oversight of the Wilderness Mountain system remotely.

Project Update and Milestones:

- The improvements commenced in late 2025 and were completed in March 2026, including internet connectivity.

Operational Update

Between January and early May 2026, operations focused on maintaining system reliability in response to regular imbalances in water pressure on the inlet and outlet side of the filtration system (differential pressure). Staff also continued routine inspections, maintenance, and targeted upgrades.

Frequent additional site visits were required from January through March to replace filters due to the elevated differential pressure. These were proactive, non-emergency responses required to sustain treatment performance. Multiple batches of replacement filters were procured in February and April to support ongoing system reliability.

Routine regulatory requirements were met, including monthly dam and safety inspections. The formal annual dam inspection was completed in April. Key maintenance included chlorine analyzer membrane replacement, Ultraviolet (UV) sensor replacement, UV solenoid valve repairs, and Human Machine Interface (HMI) upgrade work.

Operational challenges increased in March, resulting in the issuance of the first Boil Water Advisory (BWA) on March 20, 2026. Further system impacts led to an additional BWA on April 29, 2026. Troubleshooting identified reduced raw water intake performance which was corrected by cleaning the intake pump. This increased system flow from 2.4 L/s to 3.0 L/s by May 5, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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