

May 30, 2023

Colin Plant, Chair
Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard St
Victoria BC V8W 1R7

Re: Biosolids Management in the Capital Regional District

Dear Chair Plant,

On May 23, 2023, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board of Directors passed a motion directing further dialogue between our elected bodies on the issue of biosolid management. I appreciate the open and on-going discussions between our organizations on this matter to date and recognize the current challenge the Capital Regional District (CRD) is encountering in managing biosolids as approved in your Biosolids Beneficial Use Strategy.

Both of our organizations benefit by using residual solids from our wastewater treatment systems in a way that also addresses the global warming implications of methane gas; the RDN program utilizes our biosolids completely in-region. To address an unexpected operational issue, the CRD Board has passed a motion that directs biosolids to be utilized out of your region. As a result, biosolids are proposed to be shipped to a location in the Regional District of Nanaimo due to the on-going challenges with other out-of-region options and the 2011 Board motion that prevents in-region land application as a beneficial use of biosolids.

The Regional District of Nanaimo Board of Directors is requesting the Capital Regional District Board of Directors reconsider your motion that prevents on-going and long-term use of a beneficial land application program from operating in-region. We have difficulty understanding the current approach of the CRD to prevent land application of biosolids within your region while shipping it to another region for the same use. While we recognize this is meant to be an interim solution to address an unexpected operational issue, the timeline of addressing the issue is uncertain, and operational difficulties may arise again in the future which suggests the need for a plan for in-region use of wastewater treatment facility residual solids.

Regional District of Nanaimo staff would be pleased to provide any additional information your Board or CRD staff may request about our biosolid land application program. We look forward to continuing our working relationship on many issues of mutual interest.

Yours truly,



Vanessa Craig, Chair
Regional District of Nanaimo
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