

June 10, 2022

File: 0400-60
First Nations Governments

Chief and Council
First Nation
Address
Address

By Email:

Dear Chief and Council:

RE: Regional Water Supply Master Plan

I am writing to invite your input into the Capital Regional District's (CRD) 2022 Regional Water Supply Master Plan (Plan), regarding the Lake Cowichan First Nation's interests. I'd also like to begin a conversation on how the Lake Cowichan First Nation would like to be involved in water supply infrastructure implementation in the Greater Victoria area and the CRD water supply lands over the next 30 years.

The CRD is committed to maintaining safe, reliable and sustainable drinking water service delivery for all residents in the region. Given this, it is critical that we proactively address the highest risks facing the Regional Water Supply system, including lack of redundancy of critical components, climate change impacts, seismic vulnerabilities and changing water treatment needs, as well as a growing population.

To this end, the CRD's Regional Water Supply Commission contracted the development of a Regional Water Supply Master Plan, which was received by the Commission in May 2022. The Plan focuses on a new water supply infrastructure program that will address these risks. In total, 21 projects are being proposed for implementation over the next 30 years. For the purpose of the Plan, each of the proposed projects have been conceptualized, but will require more engagement, planning and design prior to construction. Some of the projects are located in the watershed lands, while others are located in municipalities across the CRD's water transmission system. The Plan builds on the commitments and strategic priorities outlined in the 2017 CRD Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan.

Attached is a backgrounder outlining the infrastructure projects, a map showing proposed locations, and the Regional Water Supply Master Plan Executive Summary.

Please let us know your interests in relation to the Plan. **We would appreciate a response by July 6th** as the CRD Regional Water Supply Commission will consider endorsing the Plan in July. If more time is needed, please let us know.

Prior to implementation of the water supply infrastructure projects, the CRD will reach out to the Lake Cowichan First Nation on a project by project basis over the next 30 years, as the projects become more defined (such as specific projects sites, scope of work, site impacts).

First Nation staff and representatives are invited to attend an online session where I will deliver a **summary of the CRD's Regional Water Supply Master Plan**. This online session for First Nations will be **Thursday June 16th, from 10-11:30 am**. Please email water@crd.bc.ca to register, by Tuesday June 14th. If you are unable to make this session, or would prefer a direct phone call instead, please don't hesitate to contact me for more information. I can be reached at trobbins@crd.bc.ca or 250-360-3061.

Sincerely,

Ted Robbins
General Manager, Integrated Water Services
Capital Regional District

Enclosures:

1. Backgrounder
2. Map
3. Stantec Master Plan Executive Summary