

**REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019**

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**SUBJECT**     **Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality – 2018 Annual Report**

**ISSUE**

To present the 2018 annual report to the Regional Water Supply Commission.

**BACKGROUND**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) undertakes a comprehensive water quality monitoring program as part of its multi-barrier approach to provide a safe drinking water supply to the region. The Water Quality program reports water trends on a regular basis to the Commission, along with a comprehensive annual report for each calendar year. The draft Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2018 Annual Report is attached as Appendix A. Water system operators in BC are responsible for monitoring and providing an annual report to the provincial regulator (i.e., Island Health). To assist in meeting these responsibilities, the CRD has prepared this report, which will be distributed to Island Health and all municipal water purveyors, and posted on the CRD website.

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommend to the CRD Board that the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2018 Annual Report be approved.

*Alternative 2*

That the Regional Water Supply Commission direct staff to provide further information.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The report indicates there is very good overall source water quality and good drinking water quality in all system components of the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System. The system is monitored for physical, chemical and biological water quality parameters. All trends are stable and indicate good conditions overall. The upgrades to the Japan Gulch Treatment Plant are almost complete and operational; treatment using ultraviolet radiation and a sequence of chlorination and chloramination remains effective in managing low risks associated with the unfiltered water supply.

Monitoring results indicate that the CRD continues to meet guidelines for maintaining an unfiltered source water supply. Further monitoring within the distribution systems also indicates a good balance between managing bacterial growth and ensuring good water quality with low concentrations of disinfection byproducts.

### **ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

The reporting function is included within the overall budget for the Water Quality Monitoring Program. This task is essential for ensuring there is adequate information to inform and work with Island Health officials, meet provincial regulatory requirements and federal guidelines, and ensure CRD staff have sufficient information to maintain proper oversight of the water supply system.

The CRD now provides compliance monitoring of the municipal systems within the region to deliver effective and efficient oversight for both monitoring and reporting of water quality within the overall distribution system. Responsibility for any issues that may arise remains the responsibility of the municipalities.

### **SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The full disclosure of water quality monitoring data maintains public confidence that the CRD is effectively managing the regional drinking water supply. The data and reports are available online through the CRD public website. Staff respond to direct customer concerns and questions, and work with CRD operational staff, municipal staff, small system operators and Island Health officials to ensure good communication and support for the overall system.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The water quality monitoring program remains an essential component in the delivery of a safe and abundant drinking water supply to the region. Monitoring results indicate good water quality overall and all parameters indicate stable general conditions. The low risks associated with the unfiltered source water are well managed by the CRD multi-barrier approach. Distribution systems monitoring indicates a good balance between residual chlorine, disinfection byproducts and any taste or odour concerns. Information is shared with all stakeholders to ensure high public confidence in the water supply and strong management of the overall water supply system.

Staff continue to review and revise the monitoring program so that it remains effective, efficient and consistent with current science, best practices and regulatory expectations.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2018 Annual Report be approved.

Submitted by:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Senior Manager, Environmental Protection
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

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Attachment: Appendix A – Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2018 Annual Report