

**REPORT TO CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2019**

SUBJECT **Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan Amendment No. 12 – Update**

ISSUE

To inform the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee on the approval status of the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan Amendment (LWMP) No. 12.

BACKGROUND

On June 20, 2018, the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) provided conditional approval of the Core Area LWMP Amendment No. 12. This Amendment contains the District of Oak Bay's September 2016 Uplands Combined Sewer Separation Plan, with an updated timeline and cost estimate to separate the combined sewers in the Uplands neighbourhood.

Under the conditional approval, Oak Bay is preparing interim reporting to be submitted to ENV by December 31, 2019, which will include:

- a cost/benefit analysis of various timeframes for combined sewer separation, including property tax implications for residents of the various options explored, and
- a plan with timeline for rehabilitation of the existing combined sewer pipeline to be repurposed as a sanitary sewer pipeline, informed by instream flow monitoring.

ENV's conditional approval also requires the Capital Regional District (CRD) to complete an amendment to the LWMP by December 31, 2021, with the target of reducing/eliminating overflows at Clover Point by 2030. Meeting this target will rely on key reductions to inflow and infiltration in municipalities throughout the Clover conveyance system.

Amendment No. 12 (<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/wastewater-treatment-project/plans-reports-and-agreements/core-area-liquid-waste-management-plan-amendment-archive>) and a February 2019 consolidation of the Core Area LWMP are accessible on the CRD website. ENV's Amendment No. 12 conditional approval letter can be found in Appendix A.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The inflow and infiltration and overflow reduction components of the LWMP commit the CRD and Core Area municipalities to eliminate overflows to the Clover Point outfall up to four times average dry weather flow by 2030. This commitment is intended to allow the CRD to avoid installing additional wet weather treatment at Clover Point to eliminate any overflow impacts to the marine receiving environment. Combined and sanitary sewer overflows can cause impacts to both human health and the environment along the shoreline and around the longer overflow outfalls, primarily as a result of potential exposure to sewage derived bacteria. Separation of the Oak Bay combined sewer system is a significant component of the overall overflow reduction plan.

ENV's conditional approval of Amendment No. 12 highlighted concerns with the proposed separation timelines for Oak Bay's combined sewers (2027/2047 for Humber/Rutland catchments respectively), as they prolong the environmental impacts from the overflows. This has resulted in the interim reporting requirements for Oak Bay described above. While the District of Oak Bay has already made significant progress with these activities since the original submission of Amendment No. 12 to ENV in 2016, this portion of the conveyance system is particularly old and susceptible to inflow and infiltration.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Since the original submission of Amendment No. 12 in 2016, the District of Oak Bay has sought and received limited external funding to further the design stages of the project. The separation cost estimates initially submitted in the Amendment have been since refined based on completion of detailed designs, and the District will continue to seek external funding to reduce property tax impacts to Uplands homeowners and accelerate the overall project timeline.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The Core Area LWMP commitments to eliminate sewer overflows also include installation of a wet weather flow attenuation tank at Haro Woods, as part of the Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project, as well as substantial efforts by core area municipalities to reduce inflow and infiltration.

ENV's Amendment No. 12 conditional approval letter encourages the CRD to continue engaging First Nations and the public on all aspects of the Core Area LWMP, including costs to taxpayers of the separation efforts. The CRD, along with the District of Oak Bay, will continue to meet regularly with First Nations impacted by the project.

CONCLUSION

ENV's conditional approval of the Core Area LWMP Amendment No. 12 confirms the District of Oak Bay's commitments to separate its combined sewer systems. Project completion timelines and overall costs will be confirmed following the cost/benefit analysis and review by the regulator. The District of Oak Bay's separation project is one component of the CRD's Core Area LWMP commitments to reduce overflows to the marine environment by 2030.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That this report be received for information.

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Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

CL/PK:ss

Attachment: Appendix A – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Amendment No. 12 Conditional Approval Letter dated June 20, 2018