

COMOX NO. 2 PUMP STATION

Project Update



OPEN HOUSE TO UPDATE PUBLIC ON NEXT STAGE OF REVIEW

The Comox Valley Regional District's sewage commission has agreed to put the proposed Comox No. 2 pump station on hold until analysis of alternative options for re-routing an aging forcemain from Balmoral Beach can be completed.

The decision comes as a result of significant study by the CVRD on existing sewer pipes and the proposed Beech Street site for a pump station.

On **Nov. 9, from 5 to 7 pm**, an open house will be held at the **Comox Golf Club**, 1718 Balmoral Ave, Comox. Community members are welcome to attend to hear more about recent developments with the project.

At the October meeting for the CVRD's sewage commission, it was agreed that alternate options for re-routing an aging forcemain from Balmoral Beach (Willemar Bluffs) should be explored (see sidebar on the right). The original plan included a proposed pump station on Beech Street in the Croteau Beach neighbourhood.

"We know the community has had many questions about the project and we look forward to updating the community on the answers we've collected over the last eight months," said Kris La Rose, Senior Manager of Water & Wastewater.

Staff and consultants will be on hand at the open house to answer questions about the work and possible next steps. Everyone is welcome to attend and speak to the project team at any point in the event.

To learn more about the project and work to date, please visit: comoxvalleyrd.ca/comox2pumpstation

Why review alternative options?

The results of the current investigation phase of the project offered three key pieces of information for staff and directors to consider in choosing next steps:

- Cost estimates for a pump station on Beech Street are significantly (83%) higher than budgeted, due to challenges such as a difficult tie-in at the beach below Beech Street, extra measures to protect against possible risks, and the constraints of the small property size.
- The forcemain along Balmoral Beach (Willemar Bluffs) is in better condition than expected, and – thanks to some repair work on protective structures done this winter – the risk of failure has been re-assessed as lower than previously understood.
- There may be other options which are more cost effective over the lifecycle of the infrastructure. Early review by the project's engineering consultants suggest other routes – though presenting their own challenges – could potentially be a better long term financial decision.

CVRD TO REVIEW OTHER OPTIONS FOR NEW PIPE ROUTE

It's still clear an aging raw-sewage pipe along the Willemar Bluffs needs to be re-routed; however, recent studies suggest there may be a more cost-effective solution than the route that required a pump station on Beech Street - if the full life of infrastructure is considered.

While the Comox No. 2 Pump Station Beech Street site hasn't been eliminated as an option, the sewage commission agrees that additional analysis and consultation should be conducted to confirm

whether a better option is available when considering the full-lifecycle of the infrastructure. That analysis will be undertaken in the new year, and results should be available to the sewage commission by early 2019.

Options to be reviewed include overland pipe routes between existing infrastructure or different locations for a new pump station that require differing connection routes.



Protecting wells and groundwater

GW Solutions undertook further hydrological study of the Beech Street neighbourhood. This included a survey of local wells and the installation and review of monitoring wells. The results show that a limited number of wells could be at risk in the case of a failure at a pump station on that site. The risk of failure is extremely low as these systems are built to protect the environment around them. However it is recommended that should a project proceed on this site additional assessment will be done and mitigation will be undertaken in case of impacts during construction.

Next Steps

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| <p>November 9, 2017</p> | <p>Open House - Project Update</p> <p>The CVRD will host an open house at the Comox Golf Course to update the community on the work completed over the summer, and next steps.</p> |
| <p>2018</p> | <p>Alternative Alignment Review</p> <p>Detailed review on potential alternatives to the scenario of a third pump station at Beech Street to be completed.</p> |
| <p>Early 2019</p> | <p>Next Step Decisions</p> <p>The CVRD will consider the results of the alternative alignment review and provide direction on next steps for re-routing Balmoral Beach pipe.</p> |

Thank-you for reading this update about the Comox No. 2 Pump Station Project. This newsletter is produced by the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) and will be released as needed.

To review additional information about the project:

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/comox2pumpstation

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To provide comments/feedback/questions:

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Please email to be added to the mailing list.



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COMOX NO. 2 PUMP STATION