

COMOX NO. 2 PUMP STATION

# Project Update



## KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

*The construction of a new pump station is critical to the continued operation of the Comox Valley sewer system – both to ensure enough capacity, and to allow decommissioning of an aging forcemain along Willemar Bluffs. That said – we know the community has questions, and we’re committed to answering them and sharing information.*

In June 2016, the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) hosted an open house to provide an update on the Comox 2 Pump Station project. The event was well attended, with about 115 people stopping in to learn more about the work to date, and ask questions of staff and consultants.

A key takeaway for the CVRD was the importance of continuing that open dialogue with communities and service users. Following up on the open house, a comprehensive Q&A doc was posted (see here <http://bit.ly/juneeventreport>), sharing all questions asked at the event along with responses/status updates and a communications strategy was developed for the project as a whole. The plan for keeping the community informed includes regular open houses, updated/current websites, this newsletter and more.

This newsletter will be a key tool for the CVRD to keep residents in the loop on this project. A new issue will be distributed every-second month, with additional updates as needed.

We’re open to questions you’d like to see answered here, please see the contact info on the back page.

## What is an ‘indicative design’?

At the October sewage commission meeting, directors approved a recommendation for staff to move forward with the indicative design phase of the Comox 2 Pump Station. This marks the next step in planning for the project and will include:

- Assessing all potential ‘red flags’ to ensure no impediments exist before progressing further.
- Complete the first stage of design and provide an up-dated project cost estimate.
- Developing a construction plan for the project that minimizes impact of both the construction and operation of the facility on the community.
- Preparing a cost-effective plan for decommissioning the Willemar Bluffs portion of forcemain.

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# RISK ANALYSIS DEMONSTRATES NEED FOR INTERIM PROTECTION

Since the early 2000s it has been identified that the sewer forcemain running at the bottom of Willemar Bluffs (Balmoral Beach) is at risk due to wave erosion. The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) hired Northwest Hydraulic Consultants (NHC) to undertake a risk analysis on the forcemain and provide mitigation options until the time it can be safely decommissioned.

That analysis – presented to the sewage commission in October – showed a 50 percent probability of the line failing in the next five years if no further mitigation work is undertaken, posing a serious risk to the environment.

As a result, the commission voted in favour of allocating \$1-million to perform additional protective work. Those funds will cover:

- Repairing and increasing the protection of the existing pipe this fall in advance of the winter storm season.
- Completion of a condition assessment for the portion of forcemain from the Courtenay pump station to below Beech Street with the option of also inspecting the remainder of the line to the Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Center.

A spill response plan is also being developed which will help minimize impact in

## 'DESIGN...' Cont'd from page 1

- Completing environmental permitting, geotechnical investigation, pump station configuration, and more.

The request for proposals (RFP) for an owners engineer to complete the indicative design has been posted and the contract is expected to be awarded for this work in early 2017.

the event of a spill. The plan will include mobilization of necessary labour, pre-ordering of equipment and materials, etc.

Read the summary and NHC Risk Analysis report here <http://bit.ly/NHCriskanalysis>

## Next Steps

January 2017	<b>Indicative Design Awarded</b> A request for an owners engineer to complete the proposals for indicative design of the pump station has been posted, and is expected to be awarded early in 2017. See sidebar on page 1 for more about what will be included in this stage of design.
Feb/March 2017	<b>Public Open House: Aesthetics and Indicative Design</b> Project team anticipates an open house will be held in the new year and will include updates about next steps for the indicative design process as well as beginning consultation on design guidelines – where the community can provide input on building aesthetics.
June 2017	<b>Foreshore Pipeline Condition Assessment Complete</b> The development of a request for proposals for the procurement of a pipeline scanning contractor is currently underway. The contract is expected to be awarded in early 2017 with completion of the condition assessment in June 2017.

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 six times a year, or more regularly as needed.

To review additional information about the project:

[www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/comox2pumpstation](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/comox2pumpstation)

@comoxvalleyrd  

To provide comments/feedback/questions:

**Email:** [comox2pumpstation@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:comox2pumpstation@comoxvalleyrd.ca)

**Phone:** 250-334-6056

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