

Stage 3 Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP)

TACPAC Meeting #16

May 26, 2026



The Comox Valley Regional District respectfully acknowledges the land on which we gather is on the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

Agenda

1. Review of Meeting Minutes
2. Overview of Environmental Impact Study
3. Update on South Sewer Extension Project
4. Summary of Consultation and Feedback
5. Review of Stage 3 LWMP and Commitments
 - Request for Decision
6. Next Steps

Overview of Environmental Impact Study (EIS)

Peter Howland, Great Pacific



Peter Howland

Aquatic Scientist, Director

GreatPacific Consulting Ltd.

STAGE 2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY

COMOX VALLEY WATER POLLUTION CONTROL CENTRE
MARINE OUTFALL



Study Context

- Environmental Impact Study is a requirement of the MWR.
 - Demonstrate the discharge will not adversely affect public health or the receiving environment
 - Establishes municipal effluent quality requirements
 - Establishes pre- and post-discharge receiving environment monitoring
- Outfall extends 2.3 km offshore with multiport diffuser at 60 m depth, serving Courtenay, Comox, K'ómoks First Nation, and CFB Comox
- Study area encompasses 6 km radius around discharge point, extending beyond plume extent to assess marine habitat impacts
- The study was based predicted effluent on flows up to year 2060.
- This study integrated both desktop assessment of available data and field monitoring through effluent, water quality, sediment, and benthic sampling

2025 EFFLUENT CHARACTERIZATION

Parameters of Potential Concern (POPCs) primarily those that exceed 80% of at least one of the following thresholds:

- Approved British Columbia Water Quality Guidelines
- British Columbia Working Water Quality Guidelines
- Canadian Environmental Quality Guidelines (CEQGs)
- Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines (FEQGs)
- Guidelines for Canadian Recreational Water Quality
- Municipal Wastewater Regulation (MWR)

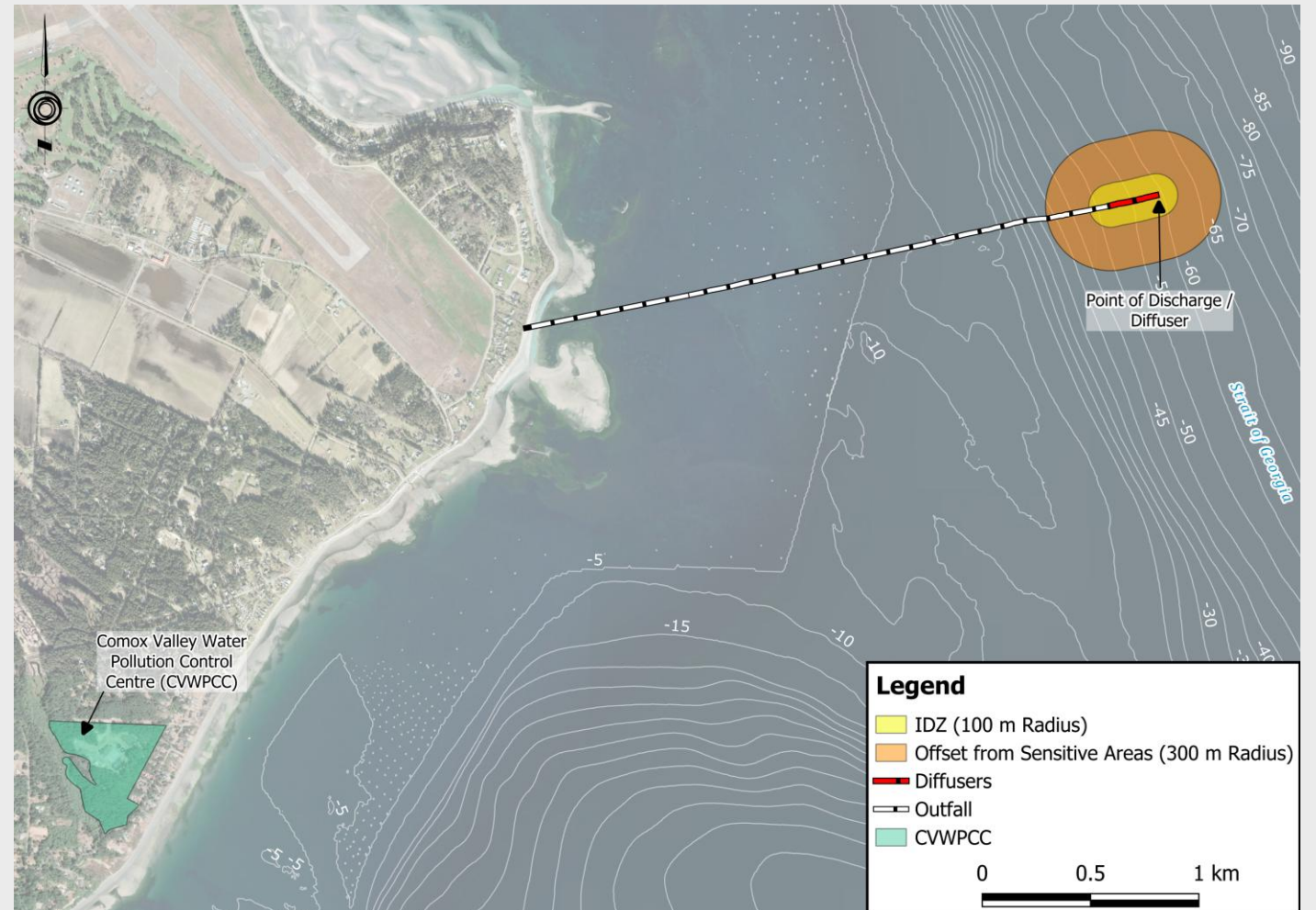
Analyte Group	Frequency
Enterococcus spp.	5 in 30; Biannually (Winter & Summer)
Fecal Coliforms	
Total Ammonia (as N)	
Total Metals	
Nitrogen – Nitrate (N)	
Nonylphenols / Alkylphenols	Once during each Winter and Summer 5 in 30 sampling events
Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs)	
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)	
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)	
Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD)	
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	
Pesticides	
Phthalates	
Bisphenol A	
Chlorinated Alkanes/Paraffins	



SITE CHARACTERIZATION

SPATIAL BOUNDARIES FOR EFFECTS PREDICTIONS

- **The Initial Dilution Zone (IDZ):** A 100 m radius from the point(s) of discharge. Parameters must achieve water quality guidelines at the boundary of the IDZ.
- **300 m Offset:** A minimum 300 m offset from the edge of the IDZ applies to recreational areas, aboriginal, commercial, or recreational shellfish harvesting areas, and any sensitive areas.
- **Study Area:** Sensitive areas requiring protection were identified within the study area.



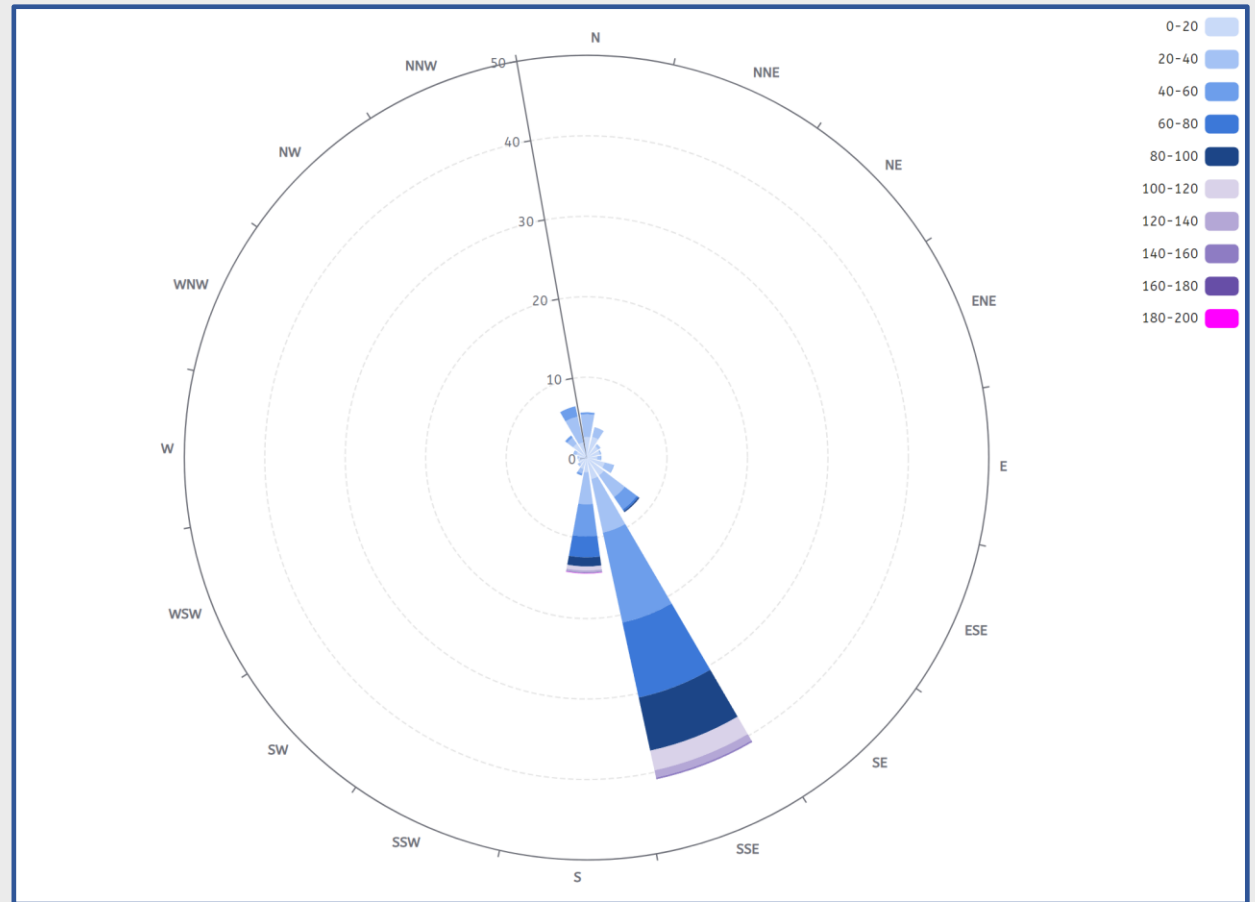
OCEANOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS

Current Measurements

- Acoustic Doppler Current Meter (ADCP)
- Drogues at 5 m, 15 m, & 35 m depth
- Flow south/southeast parallel to shore majority of time, rarely onshore

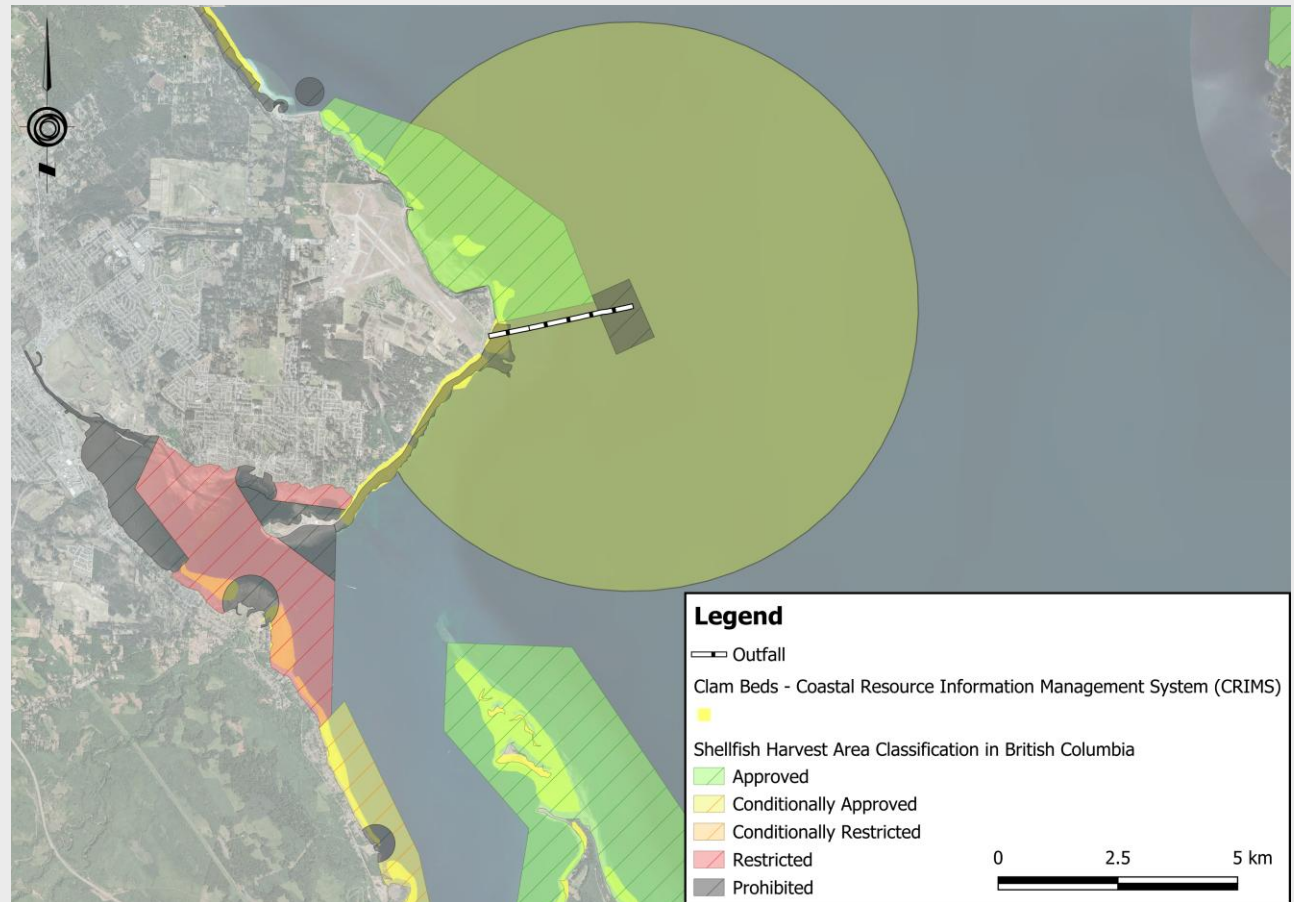
Stratified Waters

- Most stratified in summer with low salinities and high temperatures at surface



ENVIRONMENTAL RECEPTORS

- **Parks:** Kye Bay and Point Holmes Park, Activities such as swimming, paddleboarding, snorkeling, kayaking, etc., which may involve intentional immersion in the water.
- **Ecological and Biological Significant Area (Proposed):** within the 6 km study area, although it is well outside the IDZ and 300 m IDZ offset.
- **An Important Bird Area:** overlapping with both the IDZ and 300 m IDZ offset.
- **Marine macrophytes:** Eelgrass and kelp beds
- **Commercial Fisheries:** Crab, geoduck, shrimp, and prawn, as well as herring spawning
- **Shellfish:**
 - Two commercial shellfish licenses have been identified within the 6 km study area both well outside the IDZ and 300 m IDZ offset;
 - Subtidal (Geoduck) harvesting to a depth of 20 m

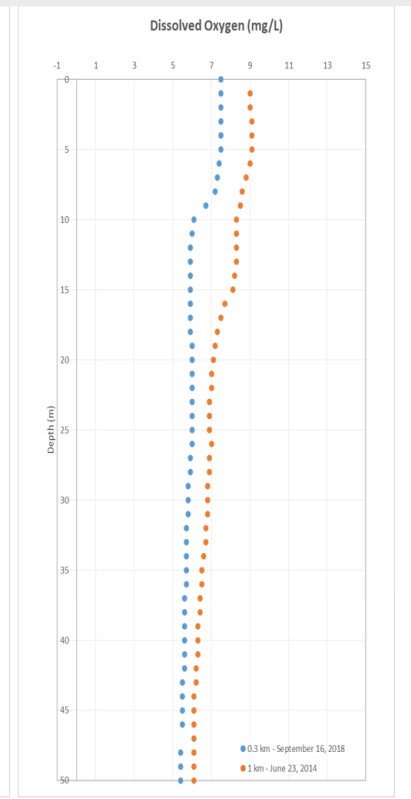
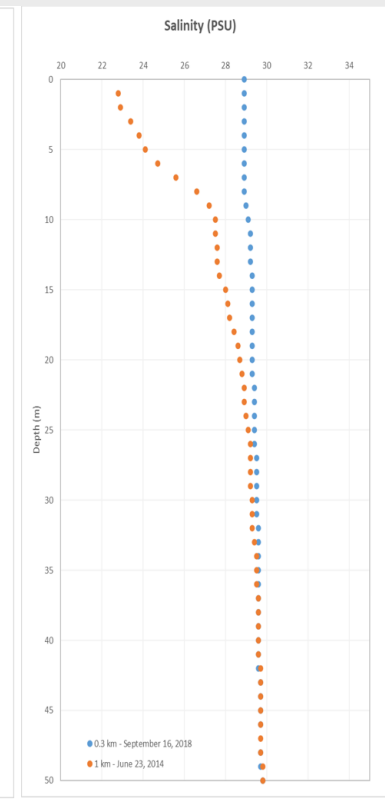
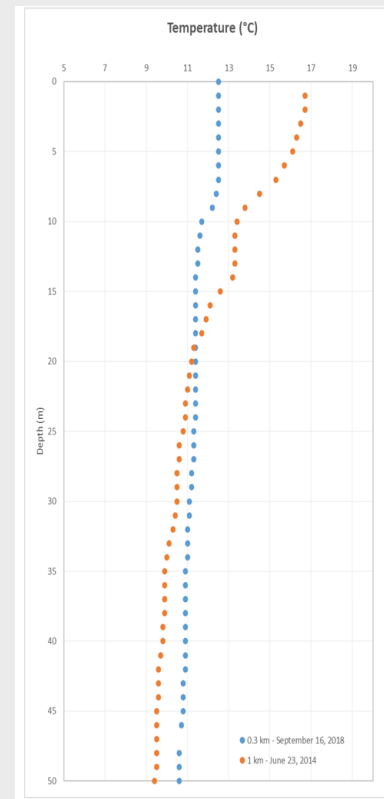




DILUTION MODELING

MODELLED SCENARIOS

Scenario	Ambient Profile	Effluent Flow
Case 1	Least Stratified September 16, 2018	2040 - ADWF
Case 2		2040 - MDF
Case 3		2060 - ADWF
Case 4		2060 - MDF
Case 5	Most Stratified June 23, 2014	2040 - ADWF
Case 6		2040 - MDF
Case 7		2060 - ADWF
Case 8		2060 - MDF

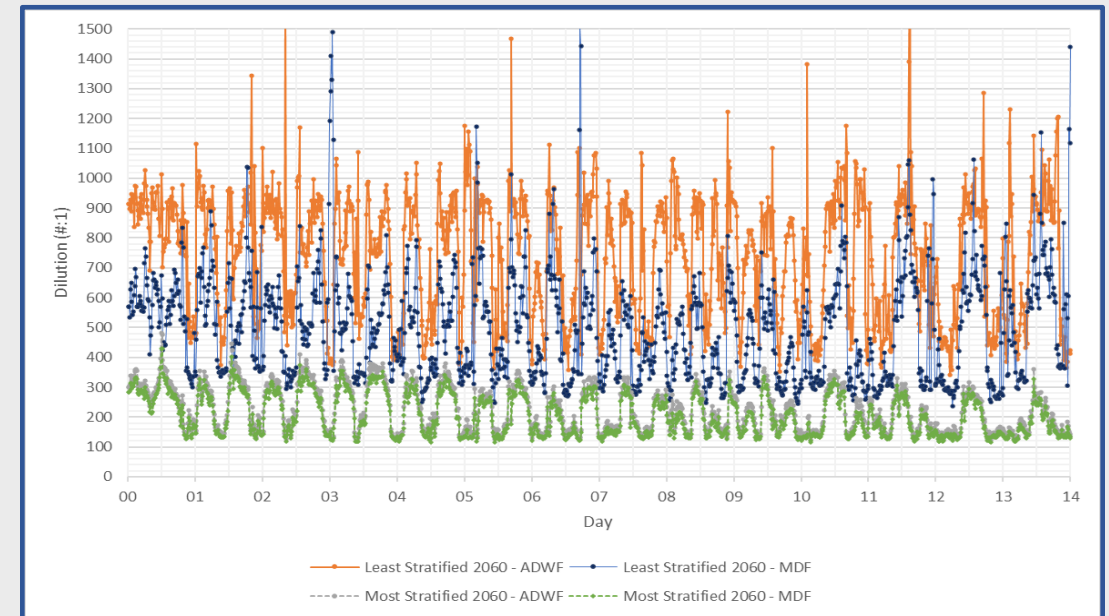
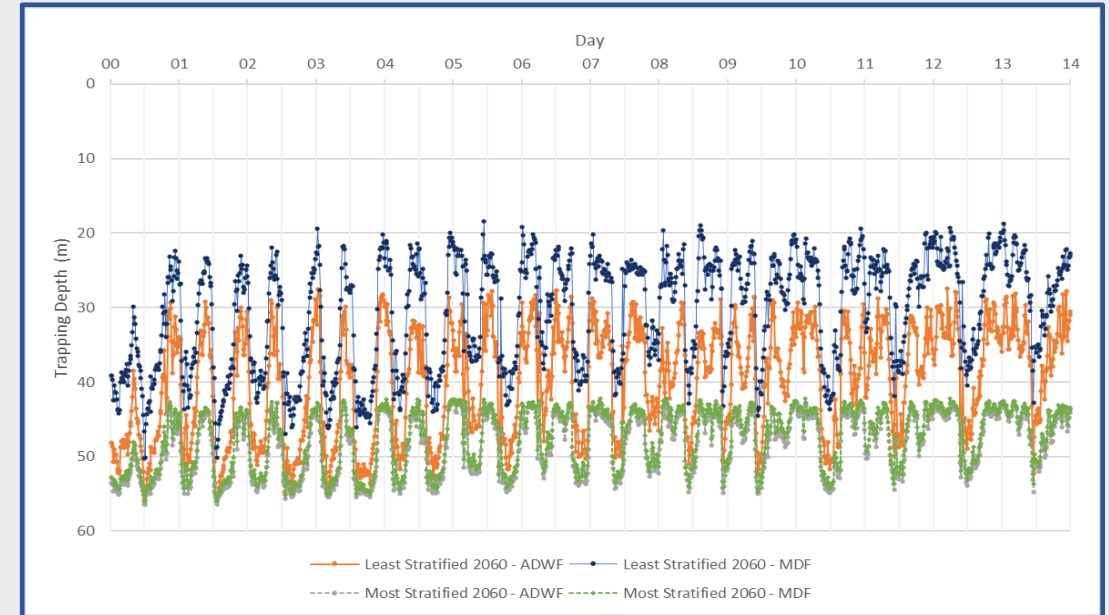


- **Predicted Trapping Depth, 14-day Simulation, 2060 Flow**

- Under the least stratified conditions, the minimum trapping depths are predicted to range from 50 to 18 m.
- During the most stratified water column conditions, the effluent plume is predicted to remain trapped below a depth of 42 m

- **Predicted Dilution at IDZ (100 m), 2060 MDF**

- Minimum median dilution was predicted to be 192:1
- Overall minimum of 114:1 at the IDZ.
- All predicted dilutions satisfied the MWR minimum required dilution of 10:1.



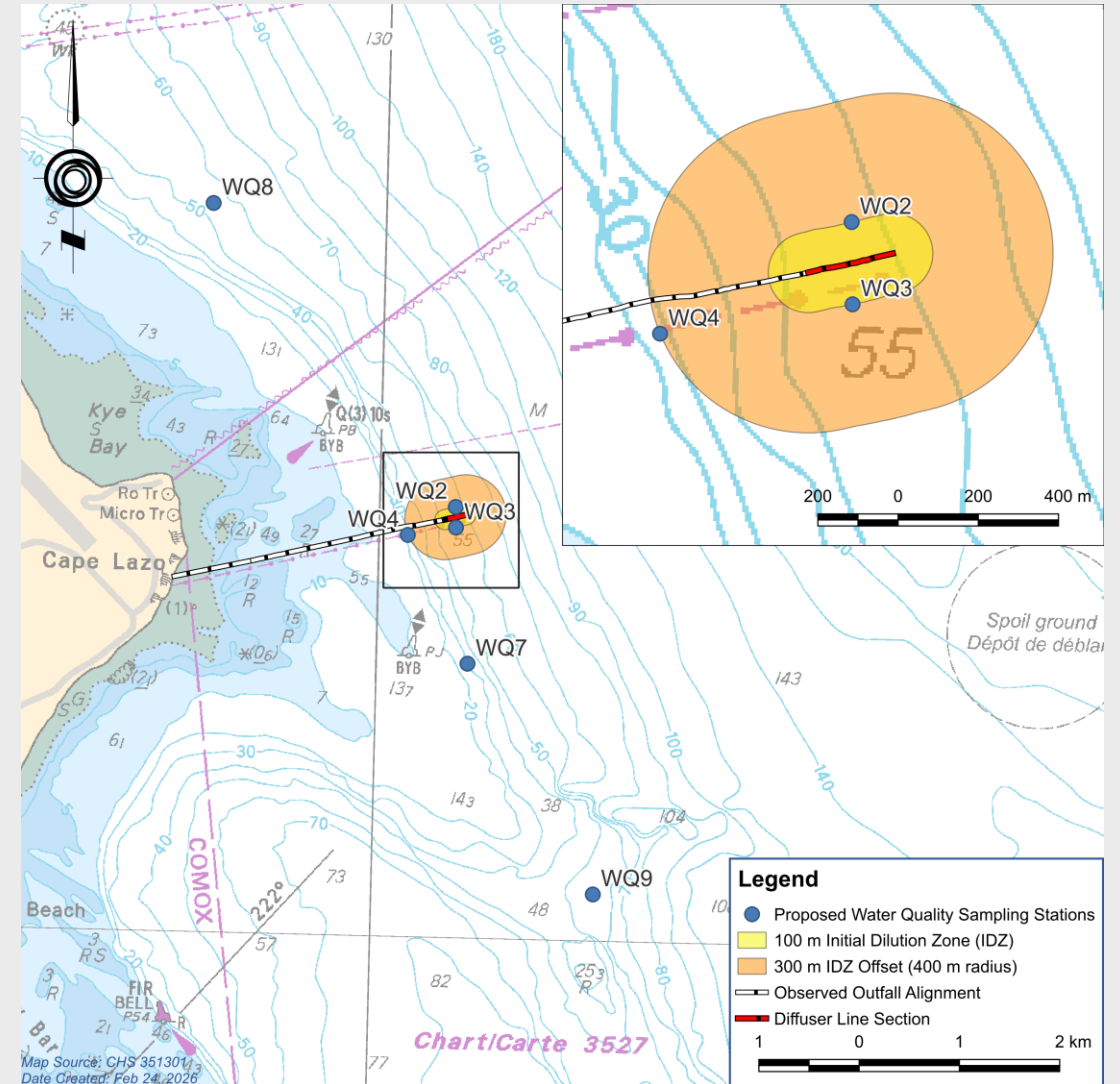
WATER QUALITY, SEDIMENT QUALITY,
AND BENTHIC COMMUNITY STRUCTURE



RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT MONITORING

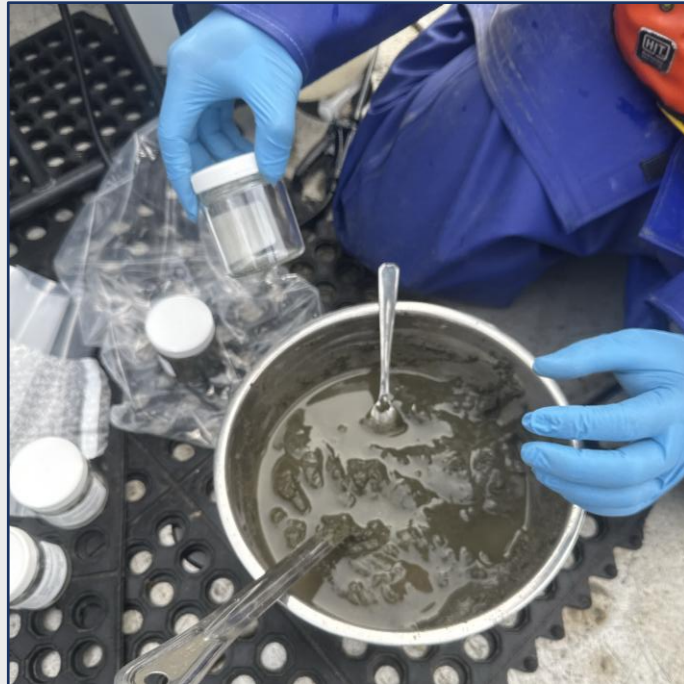
2025 Monitoring Results – Water Quality

- Fecal coliform
 - **Effluent:** < 48,400 CFU/100 mL
 - **Winter 2025:** Below guidelines
 - **Summer 2025:** The 90th-percentile fecal coliform concentration exceedance shellfish harvesting criteria at the trapping depth (~52 m) at WQ03 and WQ06.
- Total Ammonia
 - **Effluent:** Average 22.8 and 32 mg/L in the winter and summer, respectively.
 - No total ammonia guideline exceedances occurred during either winter or summer sampling events.
- Metals:
 - Cadmium exceeded both BC LT and CCME guidelines on several individual samples, clearly not linked to the outfall.
 - Copper Effluent concentrations exceeded water quality guidelines. Concentrations also exceeded BC ST water quality guidelines in several individual samples during both summer and winter, including at the reference station (WQ08). The outfall is unlikely to be the primary source.
 - Zinc levels in the effluent exceeded guidelines in both sampling seasons. Zinc was detected in some receiving
- PBDEs: Effluent results exceeded PBDE 100 guidelines (winter) and Total PentaBDE



2025 Monitoring Results - Sediment

- Sediment predominantly sand with lesser silt and clay, showing negligible variation across stations.
- Total organic carbon relatively low, consistent with sandy conditions
- Total metals within sediment quality guidelines and consistent spatial trends, suggesting natural processes rather than point-source discharge.
- Most PAHs within guidelines; 2-Methylnaphthalene exceeded limits at IDZ station only.
- PBDE concentrations complied with guidelines but elevated at IDZ, indicating potential accumulation.
- Total PCBs exceeded the BC LT guidelines at both the IDZ and reference stations*



2025 MONITORING RESULTS - BENTHIC

- Benthic community baseline established for tracking species richness and abundance trends over time



Anthropod,
Rhepoxynius boreovariatus

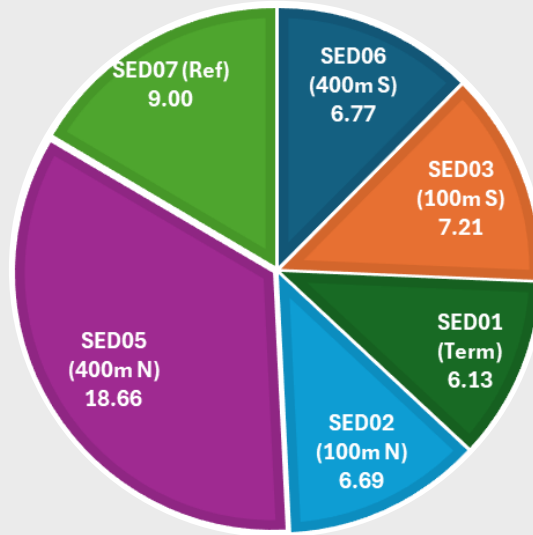


Molusc,
Axinopsida serricata

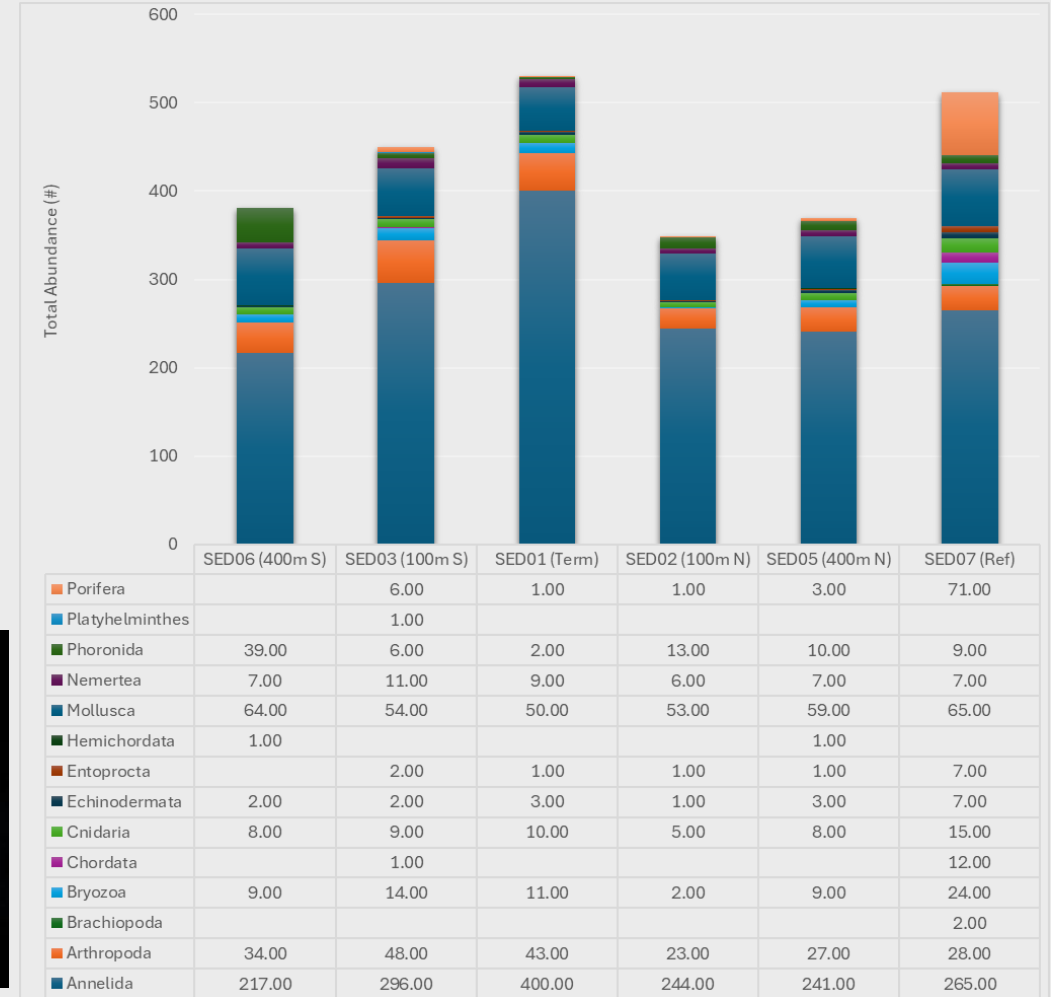


Polycheate., *Mediomastus californiensis*

Total Biomass (g)



Total Abundance





IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Summary of POPCs, Assigned Ratings, and Potential Effects

Parameter	Factor of Safety	Assigned Rating	Potential Direct or Indirect Effects, and Recommendations
Temperature	16	Low	Low potential of water quality exceedance.
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	38	Low	Low potential of water quality exceedance. Suspended sediments do not appear to be resulting in excess fines and/or nutrients (total organic carbon) in marine sediments.
BOD / Oxygen	n/a	Low	Low potential of eutrophication. Ongoing water quality monitoring recommended.
Microbiological Indicators	2	Medium	Recommend effluent fecal coliform < 1,300 CFU/100 mL, to protect human health from shellfish consumption. Medium potential, ongoing water quality monitoring recommended.
Ammonia	3.5	Medium	Combination of present-day effluent quality and predicted dilution is sufficient to achieve water quality guidelines at IDZ and prevent toxicity to fish. Medium potential, ongoing water quality monitoring recommended.
Copper, total	2.9	Medium	Combination of present-day effluent quality and predicted dilution is sufficient to achieve water quality guidelines at IDZ. Medium potential, ongoing water and sediment quality monitoring recommended.
Zinc, total	52	Low	Low potential to exceed water quality guidelines at IDZ. Ongoing effluent monitoring recommended
PAHs	n/a	Low	Measured PAH in sediment above the sediment quality guideline. Ongoing effluent and sediment monitoring recommended
PBDEs (PBDE 100, Total PentaBDE)	>18	Low	Low potential to exceed water quality guidelines at IDZ. Accumulation in sediments observed (within guideline). Ongoing effluent and sediment monitoring recommended
PCBs (77, 126, Total PCBs)	>10	Low	Low potential to exceed water quality guidelines at IDZ. Accumulation in sediments was observed. Ongoing effluent and sediment monitoring recommended
Additional parameters with water quality guidelines.	-	Low	Low potential to exceed water quality guidelines at IDZ. Periodic effluent monitoring should be completed, including (VOCs, alkylphenols, pesticides, HBCD, phthalates, and paraffins).

PROPOSED RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT MONITORING PROGRAM

WATER QUALITY, SEDIMENT QUALITY, AND BENTHIC COMMUNITY



Quarterly
effluent monitoring for
parameters of concern

Biannual
5-in-30 water quality
sampling

Triennial
sediment and benthic
community assessment

- Marine monitoring classification scored as "**high**" primarily due to discharge volume (MDF of 76,344 m³/day by 2060), requiring comprehensive receiving environment monitoring program.
- Quarterly effluent monitoring recommended for all parameters of potential concern including metals, PBDEs, PCBs, with periodic screening for additional emerging substances.
- Biannual water quality sampling (winter and summer) at six stations from IDZ to 4 km reference locations, including *in-situ* parameters (pH, temp, DO, etc.), microbiological indicators, ammonia, and total metals at various depths.
- Sediment monitoring every three years at five stations to assess long-term impacts, including physical parameters, total metals, AVS/SEM, TOC, PAHs, VOCs, PBDEs, & PCBs.
- Benthic invertebrate community monitoring every three years at all five sediment quality stations.

CONCLUSIONS



- Effluent plume is likely to be trapped between the depths of 18 m and 56 m.
- The dilution of the effluent plume at the edge of the IDZ was predicted to range between 114:1 and 1,581:1.
- Based on the predicted dilution of the effluent plume and present-day effluent quality, effluent parameters (excluding microbiological indicators) are expected to satisfy water quality guidelines at the edge of the IDZ with a factor of safety of greater than 2.
- Non-disinfected effluent fecal coliforms (median 16,000 CFU/100mL summer, 11,000 winter) could exceed shellfish harvesting criteria nearby without disinfection
- Effluent quality targets: fecal coliforms $\leq 1,300$ CFU/100mL mean and $\leq 2,400$ maximum to achieve shellfish criteria with 2x safety factor
- Category I reliability recommended for treatment plant to prevent shellfish contamination from short-term upsets
- A receiving environment program including effluent, water quality, sediment quality, and benthic community

Water Quality Guidelines

Predicted to be achieved, protecting aquatic life.



UV Disinfection

$\leq 1,300$ CFU/100mL mean, $\leq 2,400$ CFU/100mL max
<14 CFU/100mL @ IDZ boundary for shellfish harvesting compliance



Receiving Environment Monitoring

Designed to provide ongoing robust data

318.0

14.0m

N4942.1709

W12449.9881

CapeLazo

05-11-2023

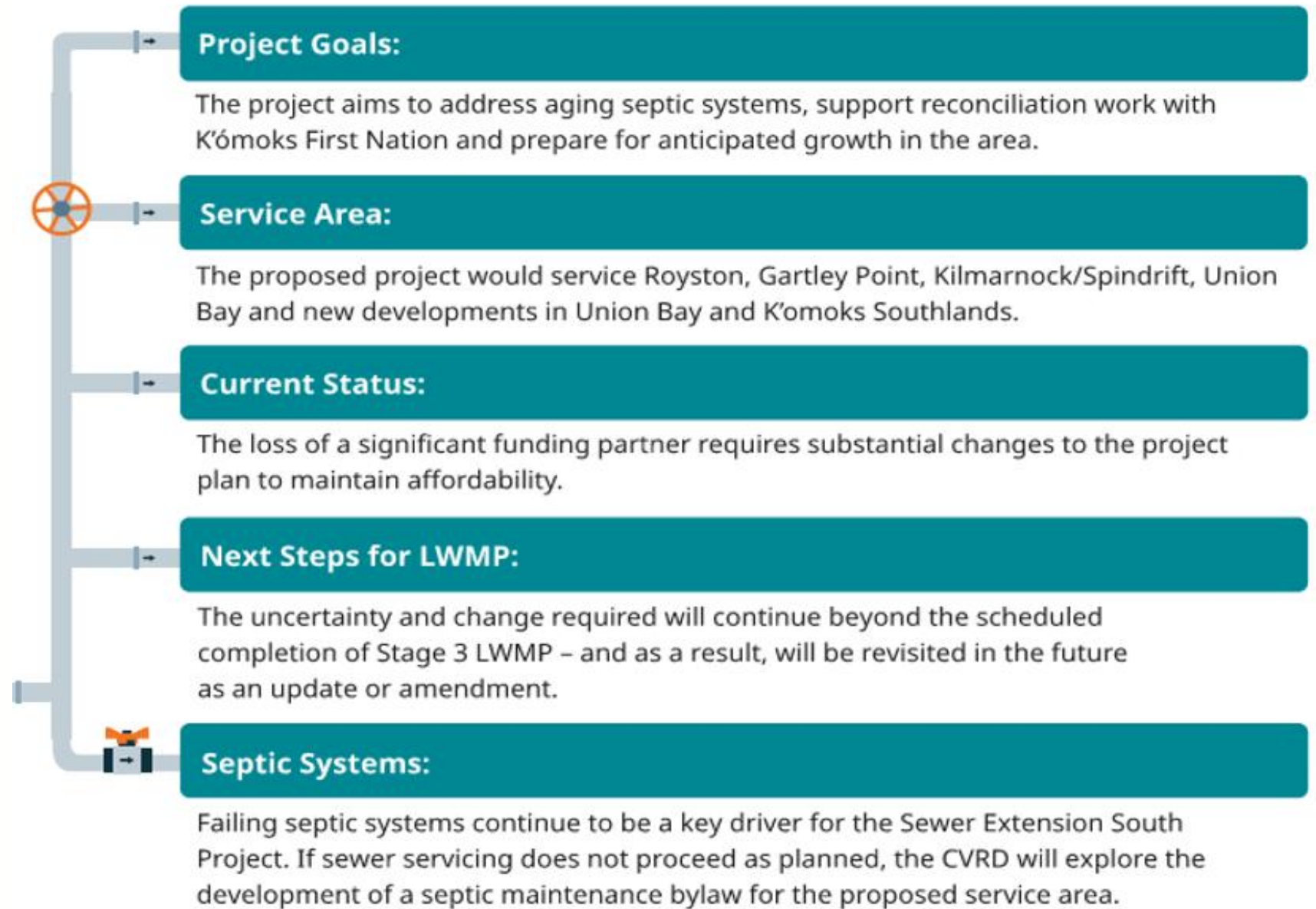
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Questions

Update on Sewer South Extension Project

Darry Monteith, CVRD

South Sewer Extension Addendum



LWMP Commitments

- Advance planning and design of Project. Consider affordability as key criterion to successful project delivery
- Continue to seek additional grant funding and partnership contributions for project
- Explore development of a septic maintenance bylaw for the proposed service area if project does not proceed as planned

Summary of Consultation and Feedback on Stage 3 LWMP Report

Kris La Rose, CVRD

Timeline



Stage 1 & 2 Consultation

- Dedicated project webpage
- 13 TACPAC Meetings
- Consultation with K'ómoks First Nation
- Public open houses, online consultation, webinars and surveys

By the Numbers



500+

Completed surveys/
feedback forms



4,700+

Visits to online
engagement page



375+

Attendees to open
houses and webinars

Stage 3 Public Consultation – Winter '26

- Started a new online Engage Comox Valley project webpage
- March 3 Open House & Tour at CVWPCC
 - 33 attendees
 - Feedback themes:
 - Appreciation to tour facility
 - Questions how wastewater systems works

Engagement Goals

INFORM

About LWMP process, timely, next steps, and required upgrades

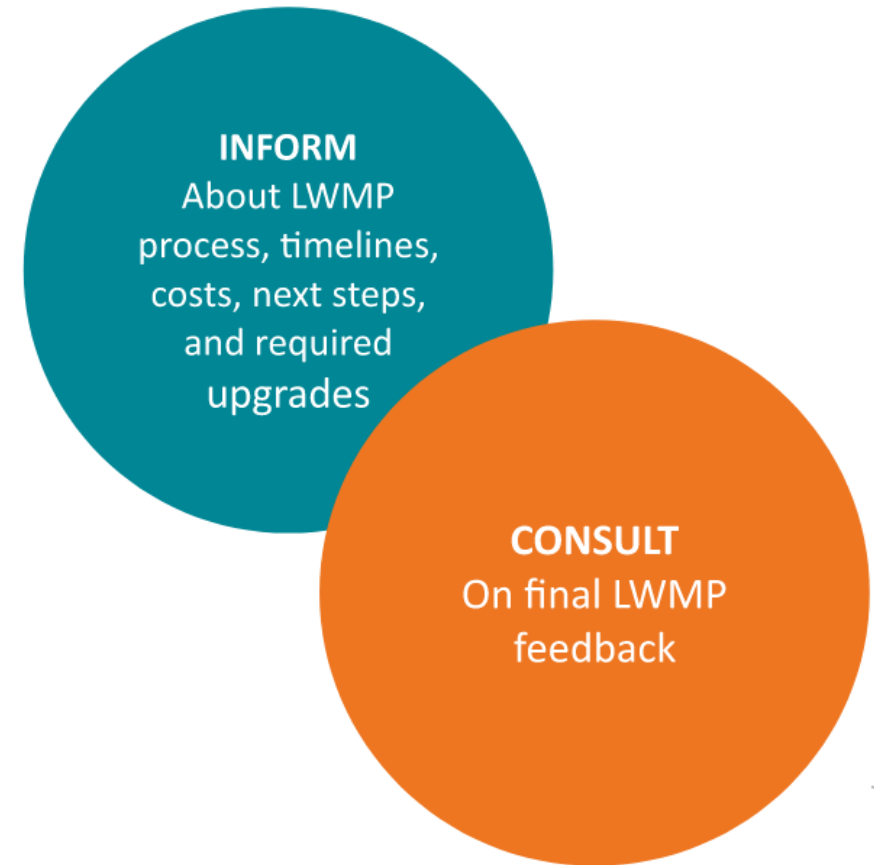
CONSULT

On estimates costs for the required upgrades

Stage 3 Public Consultation – Spring '26

- Online engagement through Engage Comox Valley project page
- May 5 Open House at CVRD Office
 - 1 attendee
 - Feedback themes:
 - Questions on South Sewer Extension

Engagement Goals



Stage 3 First Nations Consultation

- CVRD has established process for engagement with K'ómoks
- 13 potentially impacted Nations with overlapping territory
 - Letter sent to all nations regarding EIS and to introduce Stage 3 LWMP process in fall 2025
 - Follow-up letter with summary document of draft Stage 3 LWMP report and EIS sent in May 2026
 - 30 day follow-up letter planned for June 2026 for any Nations that have not responded

LWMP stage 3 referral to municipal councils

- Focus on I&I and Source Control commitments
- Town of Comox support for both
- City support for Source Control, final discussion on I&I at May 27 Council
- Staff recommending one minor change
- Recommendation today will include that change, and a commitment to re-engage with the TACPAC if anything more substantial comes out of mtg tomorrow

Value Engineering Review

- Focus on optimizing design and construction and identifying options to improve fiscal affordability
- Key outcomes:
 - Deferment of full build out of UV system
 - Deferment of full build out of filter systems
 - Modifications to septage receiving facilities
 - Relocation of grit removal facilities

Cost Per Connection Impact

	Scenario 1: No SPF Grant	Scenario 2: With SPF Grant
Phase 4 Total Capital Costs	\$113.4M	\$113.4M
Reserves & Upfront Capital Contributions Applied	\$30.6M	\$30.6M
SPF Grant	\$0M	\$7M
Total Anticipated Borrowing	\$82.8M	\$75.8M
Annual Debt Payment*	\$5.54M	\$5.07M
Cost Impact Per Connection for Long Term Borrowing in 2030	\$240	\$220
Cost Impact Per Connection for Long Term Borrowing in 2050	\$170	\$150

*assuming a 30-year amortization and an interest rate of 4.5%

Stage 3 LWMP & Commitments

Angie Smythe, WSP



REVIEW OF STAGE 3 LWMP AND COMMITMENTS

May 26, 2026



Outline

1

Stage 3 LWMP Overview and Process Reminder

2

Summary of Stage 3 LWMP Commitments



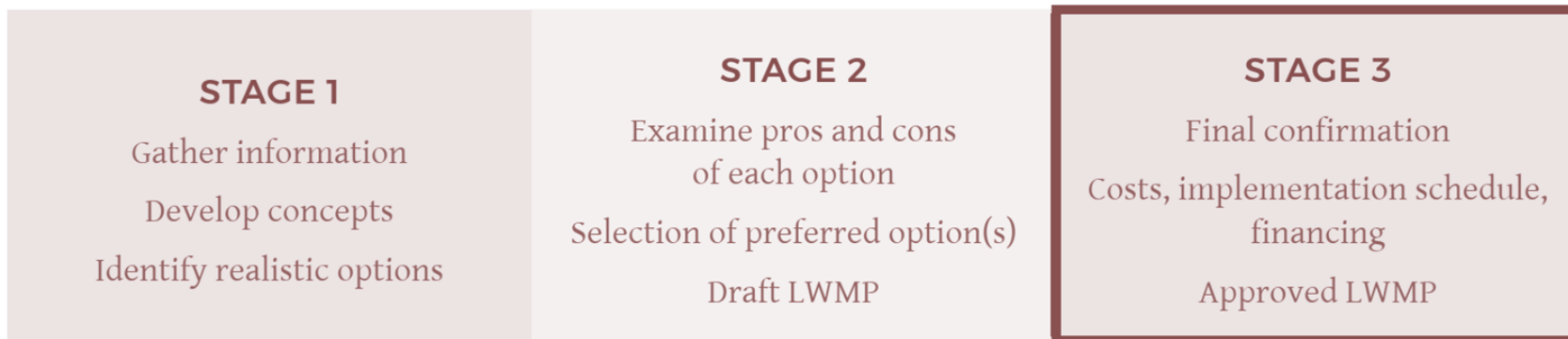
Stage 3 LWMP Overview and Process Reminder

Purpose and Objectives of a LWMP

- LWMP is a method of providing a comprehensive plan for building, financing, and managing a community’s liquid waste infrastructure
- Completed through multi-year planning, engineering, and public consultation process to develop long-term community-specific solutions



Three Stage Process





Regulatory Context

▪Key Authorizations

- BC Environmental Management Act allows local governments to develop a Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) for approval by the Minister of Environment
- Approved LWMP, through provisions of EMA, allow local governments to borrow money without the approval of electors for implementation of an approved LWMP
- Approved LWMP, through provisions of EMA, provide the necessary authorizations through the issuance of Operational Certificates

▪Key Requirements

- The LWMP must demonstrate that an adequate process for comprehensive review and consultation with the public is provided - EMA Section 27(1)(2).
- The LWMP must comply with the governing regulations respecting the management of municipal liquid waste - EMA Section 24(1).
- The Ministry will also consider satisfaction of the “Interim Guidelines for the preparation of Liquid Waste Management Plans” in approval of the LWMP.

Summary of Stage 3 LWMP Commitments



Comox Valley Regional District **Liquid Waste Management Plan**

Stage 3 Summary Report

2026-05-13

CA0015109.243





Stage 3 LWMP Components

- CVWPCC Wastewater Treatment
- CVWPCC Outfall
- Resource Recovery
- Sewer Extension South
- Source Control
- Inflow and Infiltration
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- Environmental Monitoring
- LWMP Monitoring and Update



Wastewater Treatment

Item No.	LWMP Commitment	Estimated Cost	Schedule
WWT-1	Implement Phase 4, Foundational Upgrades at the CVWPCC	\$113.4M ¹	2030
WWT-2	Periodically validate population and flow projections to confirm capital timing and adjust phasing of future upgrades as needed	TBD	Every 5-10 years, as needed

Notes:

1. Estimated costs are Class B cost estimates escalated to the midpoint of construction assuming an inflation rate of 2.5% per year



CVWPCC Outfall

Item No.	LWMP Commitment	Estimated Cost	Schedule
O-1	Implement effluent pumping system modifications to address hydraulic constraints as part of Phase 4, Foundational Upgrades at the CVWPCC	Included in cost estimate for WWT-1	2030
O-2	Conduct outfall condition assessment to reevaluate the condition of the existing outfall and determine if potential for further increases to outfall pressure are possible	\$400k	2034
O-3	Conduct a feasibility study and review options for replacing outfall	\$75k	2035



Resource Recovery

Item No.	LWMP Commitment	Estimated Cost	Schedule
RR-1	Design and construct an expanded reclaimed water system as part of Phase 4, Foundational Upgrades at the CVWPCC	Included in cost estimate for WWT-1	2030
RR-2	Continue to produce Class A compost	N/A	Ongoing
RR-3	Conduct capacity assessment of existing composting facility	\$20k	2026
RR-4	Evaluate potential for additional resource recovery (heat recovery, reclaimed water, biosolids) as technology and regulatory environments change	TBD	2035



Sewer Extension South

Item No.	LWMP Commitment	Estimated Cost	Schedule
SE-1	Advance planning and design of the Sewer Extension South Project and consider affordability as a key criterion for successful project delivery	TBD	TBD
SE-2	Continue to seek additional grant funding and partnership contributions for the Sewer Extension South project	TBD	Ongoing
SE-3	Explore development of a bylaw for septic system maintenance within those parts of Electoral Area A included in the plan area boundaries, to be put in place if sewer servicing will not proceed as planned	TBD	2032



Source Control

Item No.	LWMP Commitment	Estimated Cost	Schedule
SC-1	Strengthen and harmonize sanitary sewer bylaws for Town of Comox and City of Courtenay	\$25k	2030
SC-2	Develop and execute a regional educational campaign that focuses on source control	TBD	2030



Inflow and Infiltration

Item No.	LWMP Commitment	Estimated Cost	Schedule
II-1	Upgrade infrastructure as part of Phase 4, Foundational Upgrades, to implement the wet weather treatment strategy and achieve the selected level of treatment at the CVWPCC	Refer to WWT-1	2030
II-2	Develop and initiate an ongoing staged I/I reduction plan with the goal of limiting the maximum daily flow at the CVWPCC to less than 2x ADWF during storm events with less than a 5-year return period in the future (partner with CVSS participants)	TBD	TBD



Inflow and Infiltration

Item No.	LWMP Commitment	Estimated Cost	Schedule
II-3	Undertake the study work and assessment necessary to develop and initiate a staged I/I reduction program	TBD	TBD
II-3a	Develop a standardized annual I/I reporting template		TBD
II-3b	Conduct additional flow monitoring in collection systems (sub-catchment level)		TBD
II-3c	Conduct additional flow monitoring at jurisdictional boundaries		TBD
11-3d	Develop year-by-year inspection plans for systematic inspection/assessment of infrastructure		2035
11-3e	Identify and conduct cost-benefit analyses of I/I reduction options and develop system remediation plans		2037



Inflow and Infiltration

Item No.	LWMP Commitment	Estimated Cost	Schedule
II-4	Investigate options for private sewer lateral inspection and rehabilitation programs	TBD	TBD
II-5	Review and update bylaws related to sewer system connections and engineering development standards	TBD	TBD
II-6	Investigate funding mechanisms to help facilitate I/I reduction program development and future capital works	TBD	TBD



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Item No.	LWMP Commitment	Estimated Cost	Schedule
CCMA-1	Track and report GHG emissions annually	TBD	Annual
CCMA-2	Develop a Decarbonization Strategy	\$50k	2026
CCMA-3	Track annual rainfall frequency and intensity of extreme rain events to facilitate planning	TBD	Annual

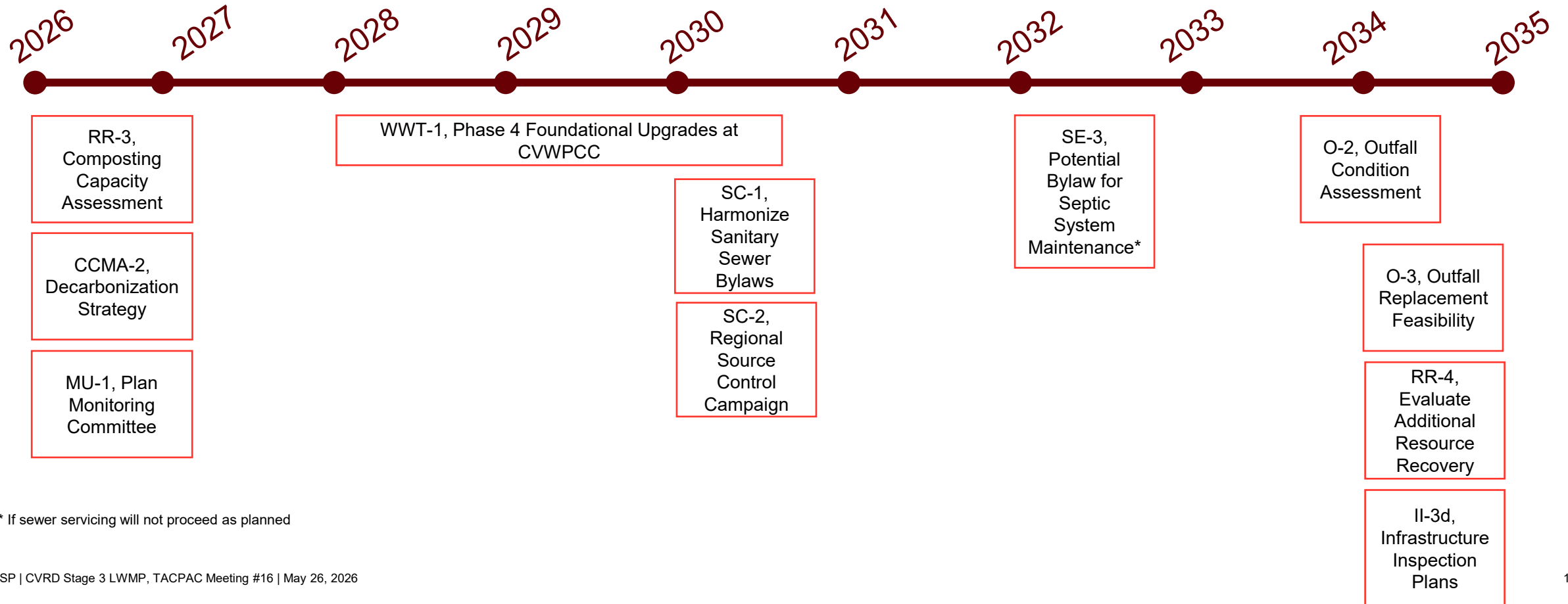


Environmental Monitoring | LWMP Monitoring and Update

Item No.	LWMP Commitment	Estimated Cost	Schedule
EM-1	Complete annual receiving environment monitoring program for CVWPCC discharge	TBD	Annual
MU-1	Establish a Plan Monitoring Committee	TBD	2026
MU-2	Review LWMP progress and update as required and provide regular status updates on commitments	TBD	Annual
MU-3	Conduct the first review of the LWMP within 10 years	\$500k	2035



LWMP Commitments over the next 10 years



* If sewer servicing will not proceed as planned

wsp

Thank you

Next Steps

Kris La Rose, CVRD

Planned LWMP Engagement

June

- Sewage commission review & approval of Stage 3 LWMP

Summer 2026

- Conclusion of First Nation review
- Stage 3 LWMP submitted to Ministry (pending no material comments from first nations)
- Operational certificate application submitted
- Continued design of Phase 4 Foundational Upgrades

What's Next



.....CVWPCC Phase 4 upgrades construction starting early 2028.

Request for Decision

The TACPAC recommends to the Sewer Commission that the Commission approve the LWMP as drafted pending no material change required to address feedback from the First Nation review

