

COMOX VALLEY WATER TREATMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Design-Build Contract Awarded to AECON Water Infrastructure Inc.

Construction is now set to get underway on the Comox Valley's much needed new water treatment system. After the award of work to AECON in July, the project team has been busy finalizing next steps to get construction moving on this complex project.

This includes signing the water use agreement with BC Hydro and kicking off the first project meeting between AECON, CVRD staff and K'ómoks First Nation.

What this means for you:

- Construction is confirmed to start in October (see timeline on pg. 2).
- AECON will be releasing sub-contracting opportunities for local businesses soon. Visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/watertreatment for updates.
- The innovative design includes an underground pump station at Comox Lake. This removes concerns about noise and aesthetic impacts in the natural setting.
- With the construction phase underway, the new water treatment system is scheduled to be operational in 2021.

Once in operation, the new water treatment system will meet current health standards, eliminate turbidity related boil water notices and deliver safe, high quality drinking water for decades to come.

Updating the Community

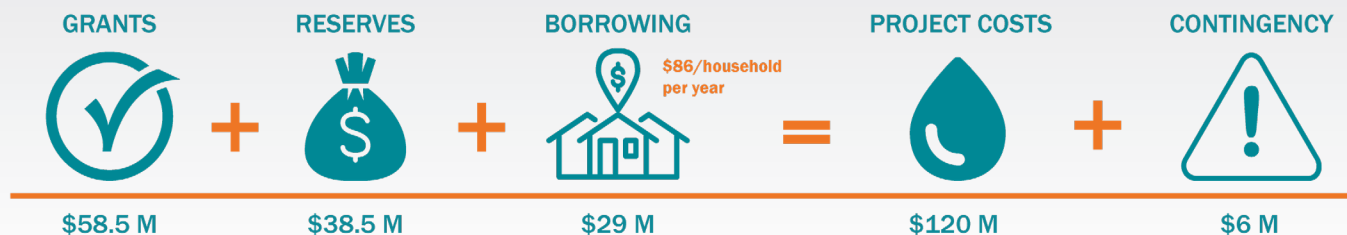
Thanks to all for coming out to learn more about the project at community events this summer. We connected with many local residents and had great conversations about the system and plans. Stay tuned for details on a public open house planned for the new year.



Visitors checking out a map of the new water treatment system at Canada Day in Lewis Park.

Project Budget Updated to \$126 million

The project budget has been updated to \$126 million from the original estimate of \$110 million to reflect market realities such as increased costs for labour and materials. The budget increase will be covered by an increase in contribution from reserves and higher-than-expected grant funding.



*Only those connected to the Comox Valley Water System will be responsible for paying for the new system at an average cost estimated at \$86/household per year. This number remains unchanged from previous estimates.



Water Treatment Plant Site Design

Wondering about project design plans with construction starting this fall? See below for a first look at proposed elements of the new water treatment facility off Lake Trail Road.

Reflecting Local Values, History

The proposed site design draws inspiration from its forest location, the active outdoor lifestyle of the Comox Valley community, and influences of the K'ómoks First Nation (KFN) traditions. The front entrance will create a 'welcoming beacon' for the facility. Wood and other local, renewable materials will be used where possible.

New Trail Head Facilities

AECON's proposed trail head design reflects feedback gathered through an earlier public engagement process, with a goal to keep the overall aesthetic minimal and rustic. Some main features include:

- » Graveled parking area for trail users
- » Accessible outhouse/washroom
- » Sheltered sign kiosk with four interpretive panels
- » Water bottle/dog water fill station
- » Barriers at the trail entrance to prevent motorized access
- » Gravel trail connecting the new trail head parking lot to the existing trail network



Operations centre entry view



Trailhead view

Pre-Construction Phase (Complete)

- ✓ Secured federal-provincial grant funding
- ✓ Land use/rights of way agreements finalized
- ✓ CVRD's Water License application approved
- ✓ Received Environmental Assessment Exemption Certificate
- ✓ Received and reviewed proposals from Design-Build proponents
- ✓ Awarded Design-Build contract to AECON

Construction Phase

- Fall 2019** Construction kick-off ceremony with KFN
- Summer 2020** Construction complete on water pipelines
- Fall 2020** Construction complete at Comox Lake (pump station and marine intake)
- Spring 2021** Construction complete at Water Treatment Plant
- Summer 2021** Commissioning complete
- Fall 2021** Grand opening with KFN

For more information

Website: comoxvalleyrd.ca/watertreatment

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