



ISSUE 10  
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# COMOX VALLEY WATER TREATMENT PROJECT UPDATE

## Start up of new Water Treatment Plant nearing completion

With the bulk of the building constructed and the treatment systems installed, the Comox Valley Regional District is tackling the final steps in commissioning of the new Comox Valley Water Treatment Plant. Commissioning is the process of starting up and testing the new systems – and marks an exciting and critical step that puts the project very close to completion.

The commissioning work started in June when water first began flowing into the plant, and will be complete in the coming weeks with the system up and running fully in September. This is on schedule for the two-year construction project that saw ground-breaking in October 2019 - an impressive feat, especially considering the challenges presented by COVID-19.

Work is almost entirely focused at the treatment plant now – with construction of the transmission mains (from Comox Lake to treatment plant, and from treatment plant to distribution points) and the new underground pump station done. Along with the commissioning work, crews are focused on the finishing work of the facility: cladding, bathroom fixtures, lighting, railings, site grading and more are all being worked on now.

**Watch for one more project update this fall as final steps are completed on this important project!**

## First Nations canoe connects project to water sources

The canoe carved and painted by K'ómoks First Nation artist Sean Frank has been completed and arrived at the water treatment plant in July, ready for installation. KFN is a critical partner in the water treatment project and the canoe is one of the art pieces that will be part of the final treatment facility. Here, Sean Frank and KFN Chief Nicole Rempel take the canoe for a celebratory paddle, met by CVRD Board Chair Jesse Ketler. Photos by Comox Valley Regional District and Zac Whyte.



Finishing work on the public lobby of the treatment plant is underway

## What's Happening Now Transmission Mains

**Final Wrap Up** – The transmission mains are completely installed. Crews are working on final deficiency items to mark this officially complete.

### Raw Water Pump Station Site

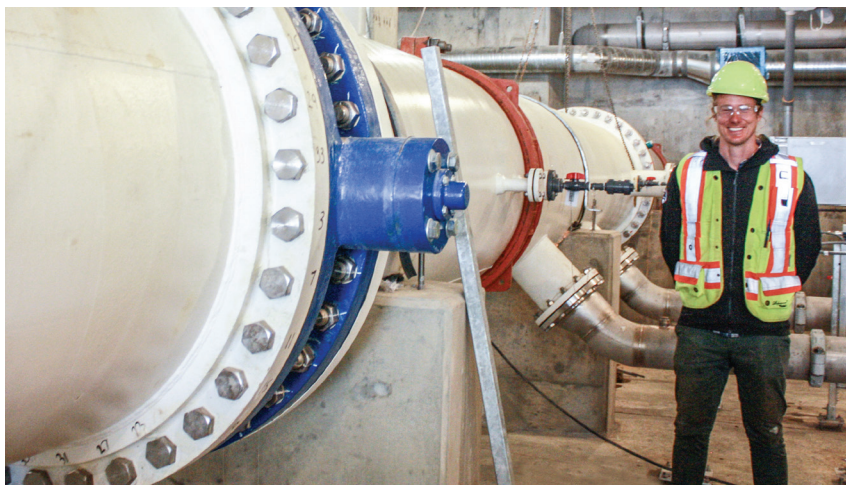
**Marine pipeline** – Marine pipeline is installed and officially drawing water from the new source location of Comox Lake.

**Pump station** – The pump station is fully operational and construction is complete.

### Water Treatment Plant Site

**Construction** – Work is underway on the cladding of the exterior of the building, landscaping – and in the interior, lighting, security and bathroom fixtures are being installed.

**Commissioning** – Inside the water treatment building, the components of the treatment system are fully installed and being commissioned – the process of starting them up and testing their operations.



Charlie Gore, CVRD's Manager of Capital Projects, stands beside the pipe which brings water from Comox Lake (raw water) into the treatment plant.

## Celebrating Successes

The Comox Valley Water Treatment Project is on track to be completed on schedule, and on budget – a big success for the CVRD's largest capital project undertaken to date. There's more good news too:



### COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS GOALS SURPASSED

AECON Water Infrastructure – the project's contractor – was required to meet a number of community employment benefits, creating opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, apprentices and under-represented populations. All three of these have been far surpassed – at least doubled, and in some cases tripled.



### EXCELLENT SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD

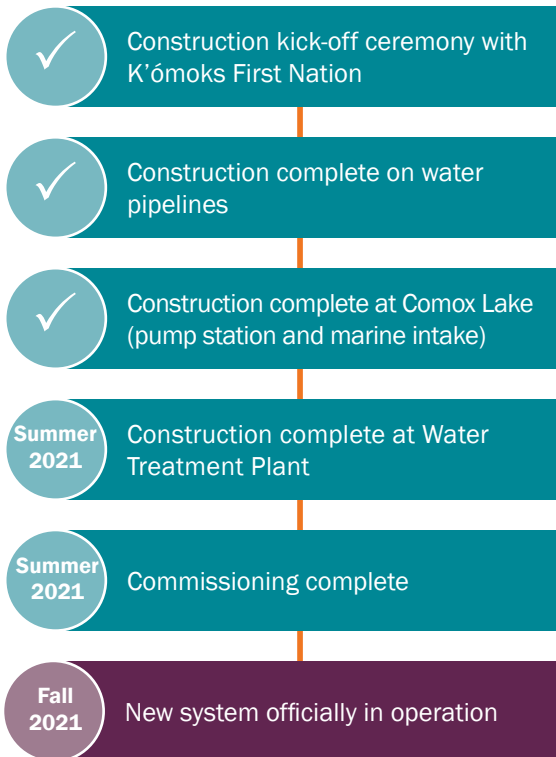
The contractor and project team faced many potential challenges to environmental protection and personnel safety – including working within and beside Comox Lake and navigating a global pandemic. Despite the risks the project has had 0 (zero) serious safety incidents or COVID cases. It's an impressive accomplishment for a project this size and demonstrates the commitment by many to safety.



### PUBLIC TRAIL AMENITIES TO BE COMPLETE IN FALL

Along with the treatment plant, the new trail amenities (parking, washroom, signage) off Lake Trail Road will also be complete this fall, offering another lasting benefit to the community.

## Construction Phase Timeline



## What's Next?

Here's what crews are working on to complete the project in full:

- Working on the public lobby and administration building – this includes items such as fire alarms, power to plugs and bathroom fixtures.
- Finishing of the roof and building cladding.
- Landscaping work.
- Commissioning of the water treatment systems.
- Public trail access facilities, including driveway and parking lot and signage.

## For more information

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