

Attention Property Owner(s) in the Watutco Water System service:

RE: Black Creek – Oyster Bay Water Service – Boundary Extension Petition

Your consideration of the enclosed petition forms is requested. Please review the information below and consider completing and returning the petition forms by **4:30 pm on November 30, 2025**.

BACKGROUND

New provincial drinking water treatment regulations require that the Watutco Water System undertake significant upgrades to become compliant. At the request of the operator of the Watutco Water System (Watutco) and Directors of the Black Creek-Oyster Bay (BCOB) Services Committee, the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has completed an update to the feasibility assessment of combining the Watutco and BCOB water systems.

The updated analysis confirmed that adding properties serviced by Watutco into the BCOB Water Local Service Area is significantly less expensive for Watutco Water System users than reaching regulatory compliance as a private managed water system.

Incorporating Watutco into the BCOB Water System and borrowing the funding necessary for the system upgrades requires approval by the property owners. Given the small number of properties in question, a formal petition process will be used in accordance with provincial legislation.

HOW THE PETITION PROCESS WORKS

Property owners will receive **two** petitions (both included on one page) by mail. If you are in favour of joining the BCOB Water Service, **both petitions will need to be signed and returned to the CVRD**. Properties owned in the names of individuals and businesses are all eligible to submit their petitions if they are in favour of the two petitions:

- **Petition 1** (Bylaw No. 868 being "Watutco Water System Modification and Connection Service Establishment Bylaw No. 868" and Bylaw No. 869 being "Watutco Water System Modification and Connection Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 869") would create the Watutco Water System Modification and Connection Service to undertake borrowing and construct the system modifications necessary to connect the two water systems.
- **Petition 2** (Bylaw No. 870 being "Black Creek-Oyster Bay Water Local Service Area Bylaw 1993, Amendment No. 21") would amend the Black Creek – Oyster Bay Water Local Service Area to add the defined Watutco properties to the service area effective January 1, 2027.
- It is important to note that for the CVRD to proceed with joining Watutco with the BCOB Water Service, both petitions will require approval.

▪ **What to do if you support the proposal to join the Black Creek – Oyster Bay Water Service?**

If you support the proposal, sign both petitions and return them by **4:30 pm on November 30, 2025** by dropping off at the regional district office at 770 Harmston Ave, the Oyster River Fire Hall at 2241 Catherwood Rd, or at the Pacific Playgrounds office at 9082 Clarkson Ave. Scanned signed petitions may also be submitted by email to corporateservices@comoxvalleyrd.ca.

For convenience, the two petitions have been combined on one page with two separate locations for signature. Please sign both signature boxes if you are in favour of the proposal.

▪ **What to do if you DO NOT support the proposal to join the Black Creek – Oyster Bay Water Service?**

If you are not in favour of the proposal, **do not** sign your petitions and **do not** return them to the CVRD.

▪ **Who can sign the petitions?**

- Only registered owners of property within the proposed service area may sign the petitions.
- For properties owned by multiple owners, the majority of owners must sign the petitions to be valid.
- For a property with two owners, both owners must sign the petitions.

For clarity, the owners of the individual manufactured homes within the Saratoga Beach Mobile Home Park are NOT eligible to sign the petitions as they are not owners of a parcel according to provincial legislation.

▪ **Determining Results**

In order for the petition process to be successful, the CVRD must receive signed petitions from the owners of at least 50 percent of the proposed service area parcels, and that in total represent 50 percent of the net taxable value of all land and improvements within the service/boundary extension area. This approval threshold is set by provincial legislation. Petitions must be signed and returned to the CVRD by the November 30, 2025 deadline to meet sufficiency requirements.

Details of Area/Petitions	
Total # of Parcels in the Extension Area	134
Total Area Assessment Value	\$119,816,100
Requirement for Sufficient Petition Process	
Total # of Petitions (divided by two)	67
Total Assessment Value (divided by two)	\$59,908,050

Please note that:

- The costs for the service will apply to all properties in the service area and not just the property owners who voted yes by completing and returning the petitions.
- If the required number of petitions is not received by the deadline, the service will not be amended.

What are the costs for the service?

Each of the two options have cost impacts to Watutco residents. The following table shows the estimated cost per connection impact for single detached dwellings. For either option, homeowners will be required to pay their share of any outstanding costs of the system modifications.

	Option 1 – Join BCOB Water Service Area	Option 2 – Status Quo
Upgrade Cost Per Single Family Home (Estimated costs to service the borrowing costs for modification of the system to meet regulatory compliance)	\$374 per year for 10 years	\$2,051 – \$3,708 per year for 10 years
Reserve Equalization Charge (To bring reserves per household up to those currently within the BCOB Water Service)	\$8 per year for 10 years	-
Capital Improvement Cost Charge (For dwelling units added to the BCOB service area to pay for expanded infrastructure costs IE: wells and watermain upsizing)	\$793 per year for 10 years	-
User Rates (Estimated average annual cost for the provision of water over the next 10 years)	\$515	\$515
Parcel Taxes (Estimated average annual cost to fund infrastructure costs such as watermain replacement over the next 10 years)	\$1,109	\$1,109
Total average annual cost of water over next 10 years	\$2,799	\$3,675 - \$5,332

More information, including details on the proposed system modifications, costs and proposed bylaws, is available on our dedicated project page on our website:

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/watutco

Contacts:

Questions regarding the Watutco Water System: Jay Oddleifson jay@pacificplaygrounds.com Phone: 778-428-9004	Questions regarding the potential of joining of the Black Creek – Oyster Bay Water Service: Caley Leimert Water/Wastewater Analyst cleimert@comoxvalleyrd.ca Phone: 250-334-6028	Questions regarding the petition process: Lisa Dennis Manager of Legislative Services ldennis@comoxvalleyrd.ca Phone: 250-334-6052
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