



Providing Safe Water: Constructing a New Water Treatment System

Project Backgrounder #2

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) is constructing a new water treatment system to deliver Comox Valley residents the modern system they deserve. The new system will eliminate the need for turbidity-related boil water notices, remove the risk of viruses, parasites and bacteria in our drinking water, and provide a secure supply of reliable, high quality drinking water for decades to come.

Plans for the new system

The new water treatment system will consist of a new lake intake to access cooler, cleaner water, new pumping station and pipelines, force mains and transmission mains, and a new water treatment plant which will use filtration, ultra-violet treatment and chlorination.

Construction to begin in Fall 2019

With full project funding secure, all important land acquisitions and agreements complete, and water licenses in hand, construction is expected to start on schedule in Fall 2019.

The project is in the final stages of the Request for Proposals (RFP) process, and the contract is expected to be awarded to the successful design-build team in July 2019, after which the construction schedule will be confirmed.

Public consultation

Public consultation has been a key component of the project from the beginning. In 2015/2016, three public workshops were held to review options to provide improved water intake, compliant treatment and delivery of treated drinking water.

In early 2018, the CVRD held a series of public info sessions to inform the community about the project and the Alternative Approval Process.

More recently, the CVRD sought input about proposed recreational facilities at the site of the new water treatment plant, given its proximity to Bevan Trail and the Puntledge Trail Network.

Project cost and funding

The Comox Valley Water Treatment Project is estimated to cost \$110.6 million.

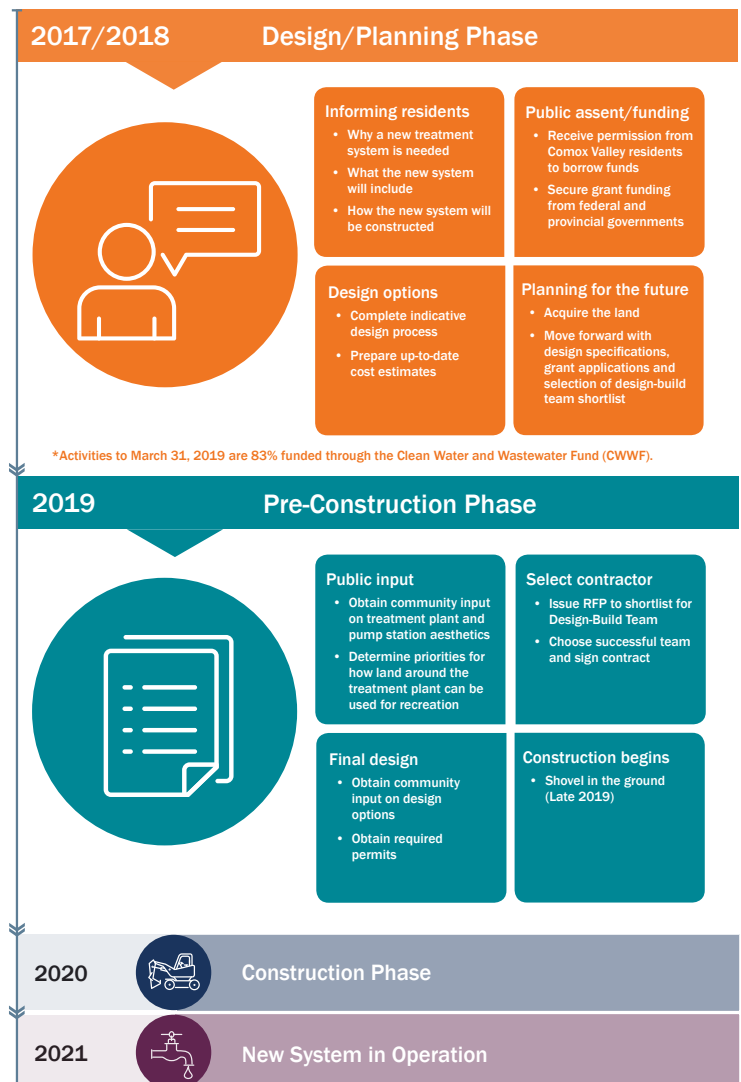
The Government of Canada and Province of B.C will fund 50% of project costs through infrastructure grants. The Comox Valley Water System currently holds reserves of \$26.3 million and the CVRD received electoral support through an Alternative Approval Process in March 2018 to borrow up to \$29 million over a maximum of 25 years to fund the remaining construction costs.

The cost of borrowing will mean an increase in bulk water rates for users of the Comox Valley Water System, estimated at \$86 per household/year.



Moving forward: Project timeline

- **2015-2016 – Water Treatment Options Study Phase:** Included public consultation and detailed analysis of different treatment technologies, infrastructure locations and conveyance options, culminated in delivery of Project Definition Report (PDR)
- **2017-2018 – Design/Planning Phase:** Included hiring of owner’s engineer, further analysis to identify options to reduce capital costs, confirmation of design-build (DB) approach and project parameters/scope, culminated in completion of Indicative Design Report delivered in September 2017 and public assent to borrow, as well as securing significant infrastructure grants
- **2018-2019 – Pre-Construction Phase:** To include development of technical specifications for all equipment and infrastructure, draft project agreements for design-build contract, obtaining required permits, undertaking RFQ/RFP processes to select preferred design-build team, as well as obtaining community input on design options
- **Late 2019 – Construction Phase Begins**
- **2021 – New System in Operation**



To learn more about the project

Visit the project website at:

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