

# Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrades

Newsletter #2

September 2019

Welcome to the second issue of the Comox Valley Regional District's newsletter providing updates on the Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Centre's (sewage treatment plant) upgrade construction and ongoing management. For more information visit: [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/upgrades](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/upgrades)

## Construction of Critical Safeguard Progressing at Sewage Treatment Plant

Construction is moving along well on the new equalization (EQ) basin that will provide a buffer for peak wastewater flows at the plant during winter storms. This pond will be utilized less than one per cent of the time but plays a critical role in ensuring that wastewater is properly treated when the amount of water coming into the facility is at its highest. Here is a quick refresher on the EQ basin project:

**WHAT:** The CVRD awarded the construction contract for the EQ basin project to Knappett Industries in early July. Knappett will complete the excavation and construction works for the basin along with two berms intended to disrupt air movement and odours into the Curtis Road area and restore the visual barrier between the plant and Curtis Road. Crews are reaching the half-way mark of construction.

Responding to concerns from residents about threat to groundwater, the CVRD has amended the EQ basin scope to double line the basin, which now includes two geosynthetic liners layered on top of each other throughout the basin. In between the two layers is a leak detection and collection system which includes a drain to a manhole that will be monitored by CVRD operations staff to determine if there is liquid build up between the layers.

**WHERE:** The basin is being constructed on the eastern portion of the property. This location was selected in order to allow for future expansion of the facility, and reduce the operational demands.

**WHY:** The most important question! The treatment plant treats on average 17,000 m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater each day. During the biggest storms and highest tides of the year however, the system is stretched to its limit. The EQ basin will act as a buffer on those critical days where the risk is the highest. It's expected to be used about 50 hours/year.

**WHEN:** The table to the right outlines the overall construction schedule – watch for updates as the project moves forward.



Installation of diversion chamber as part of the new EQ basin project

### Timeline Summary

<b>JULY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Contractor mobilizes to site and prepares area for work</li><li>✓ Preliminary excavation work begins</li></ul>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Berm construction underway with geotechnical review</li><li>✓ Diversion chamber excavated and concrete work completed</li><li>✓ Basin excavation completed</li></ul>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Basin liner and pipes installed</li><li>• Basin construction work completed</li></ul>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commissioning of system underway</li><li>• Electrical kiosk installed and electrical work completed</li></ul>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Site work wraps – final clean up and demobilization</li></ul>

\*Note: Dates are subject to change



## Getting You the News

The CVRD understands that residents living around the treatment plant have a vested interest in knowing what's happening at the facility – both for ongoing, regular operations and intermittent capital projects. To address this interest, the CVRD is developing a communications protocol which outlines clearly when and how it will provide info to those who sign up for updates. It includes:

- **CONNECT ROCKET:** In the case of an urgent or unexpected need to notify the neighbouring community, the CVRD will use its phone/text notification system called Connect Rocket. You can register for updates now at [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/notifications](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/notifications)
- **ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE:** We're committed to connecting with the community by opening our doors for an open house each fall. Watch for upcoming details on the next event – which will include tours of the new EQ basin – expected in November.
- **ODOUR REPORTS:** We've made it easier online to complete an odour report. Visit [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/upgrades](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/upgrades) and click on "Report a Complaint". This information helps us understand how operations and construction impacts the neighbourhood and as part of the communications protocol, the CVRD is committed to providing a quarterly report to the sewage commission with a summary of complaints.

We are continuing our work with the Curtis Road Residents Association to address their concerns. Our intention is to support this work by creating clear plans to better engage the community.

## Odour Monitoring Continuing

An odour study in 2017 suggested covering the primary clarifiers and adding a new carbon air scrubber would reduce odour by 80 per cent. With those two upgrades completed, the CVRD's sewage commission is interested in understanding the degree of reduction that has been achieved. Odour sampling was conducted over the summer and will continue into September. Staff will bring a report to the sewage commission later this fall summarizing this summer's assessment results. They will also make a recommendation about odour standards and determine if further measures, such as covering the bioreactors, are needed. An update will be available at the next open house.



Last year's open house at the treatment plant was well attended.



Construction moving ahead on the new EQ basin and berm.

## Questions/Concerns?

### Contact Us:

Phone: Business hours/non urgent: **250-334-6056**, after hours/emergency: **1-888-777-5985**

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