

# CADBORO BAY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Attn: Geoff Young, Chair  
Capital Regional District Board

March 10, 2009

RE: **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT - CRD CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PLANNING**

From the outset of the CRD Core Area liquid waste management system strategy planning process, the CRD has considered the Saanich East area a desirable option for sewage treatment facility siting. The Saanich East area (and possibly a potential location in the community of Cadboro Bay) presently remains a location desired by the CRD in all three liquid waste management options currently under review by the CRD Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee (CALWMC). Because a treatment facility siting in our local area was a possibility, two members of the Cadboro Bay Residents' Association have been auditing closely the liquid waste system planning process by attending the CALWMC meetings. These two members have been reporting back to our Executive Board, keeping the Board up to date and informed with respect to your committee's agendas and business discussions when not in camera meetings.

At this time I would like to bring forward for the committee's consideration and information the following:

Based on feedback received from your 25<sup>th</sup> February Committee meeting, Agenda item 5 report EH09-15 entitled Distributed Waste Water Management Strategies in Section 3 on page 4 it is stated "The capacity of the Saanich East Plant is essentially governed by the build-out of the upstream sewerage area and in Section 5 page 6 it is stated "The analysis has reaffirmed the desirability of a Saanich East waste water plant".

In light of the referenced statements identified above and in the absence of analysis criteria to support the requirement for a waste water treatment facility in our community, our residents will seek further qualification and information supporting these statements. As such we pose the questions outlined as follows for consideration.

1. Why is a Saanich East facility required in the system?
2. Why are any changes required to the existing Saanich East system? What specific improvements to the existing infrastructure would be required if the Saanich East plant is not implemented?
3. What area precisely comprises the "upstream sewerage area" that has been taken into consideration to determine future capacity of a Saanich East plant? What percentage of flow rate increase is predicted over future years?
4. Do the answers to the above 3 questions warrant requirement for a facility in Saanich East? Is desirability for a Saanich East treatment plant in its self justification enough for the high costs involved to the community?

5. If the primary justification for a Saanich East plant rests on potential resource recovery benefits, what are the main benefits to the overall system and who are the direct beneficiaries?
6. What additional infrastructure or support facilities would be required to serve a Saanich East plant?
7. Without a Saanich East facility, would the Core Area waste water management system become non-functional?
8. Why are any changes required to the existing Saanich East system? What specific improvements to the existing infrastructure would be required if a Saanich East plant is not implemented?
9. Has either option (or both options) for a full fledged Integrated Resource Management System or for a 10 facility system been fully explored?

Given the magnitude and complexity of this project on all fronts in terms of treatment technologies under consideration, costs, and direct impacts on the residents, neighbourhoods, the community as a whole and the environment, the public will expect involvement with decisions respecting siting locations and will demand thorough, comprehensive and meaningful engagement in a consultation process that is open to their constructive input and that takes into account their community concerns.

With CRD purchase of the Haro Woods QA property our residents feel that treatment facility siting decisions have already been made without community consultation or their input. As process planning timelines become more constricted these views are becoming more pronounced and residents anxious, convinced there really are no facility siting options.

Our Association is prepared to assist in any way necessary and will help with organization of information exchange sessions and open forum meetings for residents of both Cadboro Bay and Gordon Head as may be required. We would suggest that an impartial moderator facilitate all public meetings while the format of the first forum be informal, allowing for engagement of frank, forthright discussion using plain language and open dialogue. Our residents are in need of information regarding the current status of the liquid waste management planning process, the unfolding of the process to this point in time and the Saanich East options for system treatment facilities and siting location possibilities currently under consideration.

Finally, I would like to make it clear that our Association has not taken a position with respect to support for a sewage treatment facility in our community. We do however support and expect full and open public disclosure with frank discussion of all liquid waste systems and siting options under consideration in Saanich East. This includes the opportunity to vet all options affecting our community and, subject to environmental review requirements, proceed with the option determined by area residents and stakeholders as the best fit for our community.

We look forward to engagement of timely public consultation and also playing a role to serve as a model for the process.

Thank you.

Irene Stewart, President CADBORO BAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

cc. JUDY BROWNOFF, CHAIR – CRD CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE