

March 20, 2014

Public input refines City Council's boundary extension-sewer service offer to Area D residents

The City of Campbell River continues to refine its draft proposal for a boundary extension and sewer service in the northernmost portion of Area D in response to comments received at the February open house held at Ocean Grove Elementary and other feedback from residents living in the area.

Given Council's objective to respond to the requests for sewer service and address the environmental issues with the offer of sewer service, Council has directed that two large undeveloped parcels be removed from the boundary extension area. These properties are located on the western limit of what has been called Sewer Area 1.

Council has also committed to providing sewer service throughout the full boundary extension area, formerly referred to as Sewer Area 1 and 2. In this revised proposal, all 535 properties would receive sewer service under the same construction timeline and funding conditions. An updated map of the proposed boundary extension area will be posted on the City's website.

"After hearing the feedback from the open house and reviewing the financing options, Council recognized that a marginal increase in City debt would allow us to provide sewer service to the entire area," says Councillor Andy Adams, who holds the finance portfolio for Campbell River City Council. "The option presented will provide some certainty to the residents in the proposed boundary extension area that sewer services will be provided, and provides clarity for both the Strathcona Regional District and the City in moving forward with capital planning for infrastructure."

The proposal to extend the City boundary and offer sewer services remains conditional upon the Strathcona Regional District agreeing to transfer the existing \$3.4 million grant, and on senior governments agreeing to extend the availability for the grant.

Payment options have also been clarified. All 535 property owners in the boundary extension area would be provided the option of financing the \$9,300 per property construction cost over 20 years – likely starting in 2015. The option to pay this fee in a lump sum would also remain. Once the sewer system is available for use, the 535 property owners would have up to five years to connect to the sewer system and pay the connection fee, currently set at \$1,800.

Feedback from Strathcona Regional District may further influence Council's final proposal and timing of a referendum for Area D residents in the proposed boundary extension area.

Additional public information meetings and newsletters will be used to update citizens. Information will also continue to be posted on the City's website.

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