



**REQUEST FOR BUDGET AMENDMENT – WESTURNE HEIGHTS WATER SERVICE AREA
CONSTANT PRESSURE PUMPING UPGRADE PROJECT**

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional District of Nanaimo Board approve an increase in funding for the Westurne Heights Water Service Area Constant Pressure Pumping Upgrade project from \$12,000 to \$21,000 with the additional funds coming from the Westurne Heights Capital Reserve Fund, and that the 2023 Financial Plan be amended to reflect this change.

BACKGROUND

The Westurne Height Water Service Area (WSA) provides drinking water to 17 residences in the Whiskey Creek area of Electoral Area F. It was created as a private water system in 1995 and transferred to the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) in 2015. The system does not provide fire protection. The water supply system consists of a single groundwater well, a sodium hypochlorite dosing pump, two small underground reservoirs, two distribution pumps, and an underground distribution system. Currently, the distribution pumps are fixed-speed units that cycle on and off, one or both, depending on demand. This results in many starts and stops of the pump in the typical daily cycle and produces a wide range of pressures in the distribution system as demand changes. Frequent pump starts are not desirable from a motor lifecycle perspective, and variable pressure in the distribution system can lead to problems with residential appliances and make proper setup of drip irrigation systems difficult. A better installation, and the subject of this request for additional funds, uses pumps connected to variable-speed motor drives, where the speed of one or both pumps can be varied constantly to control outlet pressure. Less frequent pump starts will result and the pressure in the distribution system will be virtually the same at all levels of water demand.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Constant pressure pumping was identified as a desirable improvement to this water system in the 2023 Financial Plan with a value of \$12,000. This number was based on budget price information from vendors in early 2022. Recent firm price quotes for the new equipment required coupled with project execution experience gained from completing a similar project in the Surfside WSA earlier this year indicate that the total price to do the work has risen to \$21,000.

The Westurne Heights Capital Reserve fund has sufficient funds to support this increased transfer.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Growth Management - Provide effective regional land use planning and responsible asset management for both physical infrastructure and natural assets.

REVIEWED BY:

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