

STAFF REPORT

TO: Committee of the Whole

MEETING: January 8, 2019

FROM: Shelley Norum
Wastewater Program Coordinator

FILE: 2240-20-CMP

SUBJECT: Conditional Management Plan for French Creek Pollution Control Centre Pump Stations

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the 2019-2022 Conditional Management Plan agreement between the Regional District of Nanaimo, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

SUMMARY

The current Conditional Management Plan (CMP) agreement for two wastewater pumpstations at: Bay Avenue in City of Parksville; and Hall Road in Town of Qualicum Beach, expires on January 31, 2019 and must be renewed. The CMP is an agreement between the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and Federal, and Provincial authorities that identifies: the roles and responsibilities of each party in the event of an emergency bypass at the pump stations.

CMP's are established under the authority of the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program (CSSP) to provide reasonable assurance that shellfish are safe for consumption. The participants in the CMP are: RDN; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; (DFO); Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC); Canadian Food Inspection Agency; and the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

The CMP does not apply to discharges of treated or untreated wastewater directly from the French Creek Pollution Control Centre (FCPCC), which remain subject to reporting under the Fisheries Act:

The agreement in Attachment 1 would extend the CMP to January 31, 2022. The renewal agreement requires no operational changes for the RDN and has no financial implications.

BACKGROUND

A Conditional Management Plan (CMP) is an agreement that enables the harvest of shellfish in areas in proximity to wastewater infrastructure. These areas meet the standards for safe harvest of bivalve molluscan shellfish (i.e. mussels, oysters, and clams), except in times where a temporary source of pollution exists. As long as the pollution source is not present, the CMP allows the shellfish harvesting area to remain open.

The Bay Avenue and Hall Road Pump Stations that convey wastewater to FCPCC from the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach were each constructed with an emergency bypass that can divert untreated wastewater to the marine environment if the volume of wastewater

entering the pump station exceeds its capacity. A bypass prevents damage to the pump station and interceptor infrastructure and reduces the risk of flooding private residences. A bypass has not occurred since the original construction of the pump stations in the 1970's. Furthermore, pump redundancy, back-up power, and a SCADA system make it unlikely that a bypass will occur. However, the existence of these bypasses has prompted a CMP to manage the potential contamination risk for shellfish harvesting in the area.

A CMP has been in place for the two FCPCC pump stations since May 2012 and was developed with the following participating partners:

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

The RDN's commitments within the CMP are as follows:

- Notify Emergency Management BC, the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Radio Room, and CMP partners within 30 minutes of detecting a bypass from the Bay Avenue or Hall Road Pump Station.
- Notify Emergency Management BC, the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Radio Room, and CMP partners within 30 minutes of when the bypass ends.
- Maintain up-to date records of the operations and maintenance of the wastewater treatment facility and interceptor, as per the requirements of its operating permit issued by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.
- Provide results of routine final effluent analysis to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, as per the requirements of the operating permit.
- Submit an annual report by January 15th summarizing bypass events from January 1 to December 31 of the previous year.

The current CMP agreement expires on January 31, 2019. The agreement in Attachment 1 would extend the CMP to January 31, 2022. The renewal agreement requires no operational changes for the RDN.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the 2019-2022 Conditional Management Plan agreement between the Regional District of Nanaimo, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.
2. Do not approve the 2019-2022 Conditional Management Plan agreement and provide alternate direction to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications anticipated for the RDN by signing or implementing the CMP renewal agreement. As part of Wastewater Services Department's ISO 14001 certified Environmental Management System, emergency response procedures are already established to respond to environmental incidents like an untreated wastewater discharge to the environment.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Focus On Economic Health- We Will Support Our Traditional Industries: Forestry, Tourism, Manufacturing, Fishing, Knowledge Based And Technology Based Industries

The CMP supports the fishing industry as it allows for shellfish growing areas to remain open to harvesting. With the CMP in place, First Nations may harvest for food, social and ceremonial purposes; recreational fishing may occur at any time of year, and wild commercial clam and commercial geoduck fisheries are periodically open. Without a CMP, the size of shellfish harvesting closures would increase and harvesting activities would be reduced.

Focus On Relationships- We Look For Opportunities To Partner With Other Branches Of Government/Community Groups To Advance Our Region

The CMP was developed with, and enhances the working relationship with: the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.



Shelley Norum
snorum@rdn.bc.ca
November 30, 2018

Reviewed by:

- S. De Pol, Director, Water and Wastewater Services
- R. Alexander, General Manager, Regional and Community Utilities
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

1. Conditional Management Plan for French Creek Pollution Control Centre Pump Stations, 2019-2022