Comox Valley Regional District
Solid Waste Management Plan:
First Nation Consultation
Final Report

Prepared for
Comox Valley Regional District
600 Comox Road
Courtenay, BC, V9N 3P6

August 15, 2012
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In keeping with the Ministry of the Environment's (MOE) mandate that First Nations be consulted whenever decisions or activities with the potential to affect their rights are being considered, a First Nations solid waste management options consultation process was undertaken by the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) with the assistance of TRI Environmental Consulting Inc.

The scope of work included (a) an information package for each chief/head of Tribal Council, (b) a map of traditional lands within the boundaries of Comox Valley and Strathcona regional districts, (c) a series of face-to-face meetings with representatives of First Nation communities, (d) a list of actions arising from the consultative meetings, and (e) a final report.

The First Nation communities within the regional district would appear to have an interest in the CVRD’s solid waste management agenda, although they needed more time to consider the implications of the CVRD’s proposed solid waste options. During the time period covered by this report, initial contact was made with all but one of the communities within the District, six preliminary consultations were undertaken, and expressions of interest for additional consultations were obtained from five other communities, and two communities did not see a need to meet in person.

Now that the CVRD has made contact with the First Nation communities within the District, there is an expectation that the CVRD will continue the consultation process by proceeding with the requested meetings and community events.
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1 INTRODUCTION

In November 2011, the Comox Valley Regional Solid Waste management plan committee gave its approval for the draft report entitled *Solid Waste Management Plan: Stage 2 Report - Solid Waste Management Options* to proceed to public consultation. As the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has mandated that First Nations be consulted whenever decisions or activities with the potential to affect their rights are being considered, a First Nations consultation process was undertaken by the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) with the assistance of TRI Environmental Consulting Inc.

1.1 Background

The draft *Solid Waste Management Options* report was written by consultants AECOM Canada Ltd. and Maura Walker & Associates with the assistance of an Advisory Committee made up of representatives from the community, business and industry, environmental groups, and government officials.

The options presented in the draft report by AECOM were based on a goal of achieving a solid waste diversion rate of 70% over the next five years and include recommendations for (a) increasing the amount of waste recycled or diverted, (b) maintaining one or two regional landfills and closing filled areas in others, (c) funding infrastructure requirements and new programs primarily through tipping fees, and (d) pursuing energy recovery from residual waste in the longer term.

As the Ministry of Environment has mandated that the public must be consulted on all options in the draft plan, public consultation was conducted between February and April 2012. A specific consultative process for First Nations was deemed necessary and the present report provides a summary of the CVRD's engagement from February through August 2012 with affected First Nations communities within the District.

The purpose of the consultation was to ensure that First Nations were adequately informed of the Solid Waste Management Planning (SWMP) process and were provided with an opportunity to comment on the options under consideration. In addition, the consultative process was intended to strengthen relationships between the CVRD and First Nations and allow for further collaboration as the plan moves into the implementation phase. All First Nations responses are part of the public consultation record reported in the SWMP documentation to the MoE and are a part of the requirements of the Ministry for meaningful public consultation.

1.2 Scope of Work

The scope of work included (a) an information package for each chief/head of Tribal Council, (b) a map of traditional lands within the boundaries of Comox Valley and Strathcona Regional Districts, (c) a series of facilitated regional consultative meetings with First Nations, (d) a list of actions arising from the consultative meetings, and (e) a final report.
2 APPROACH

2.1 First Nation Consultation

2.1.1 Initial Contact

The initial contact with the First Nation communities within the District was by telephone in order to update the contact information for each First Nation. See Appendix I for the updated list of names, telephone/fax numbers, and mail/email addresses for each of the fourteen First Nations within with the Comox Valley Regional District.

A letter from Edwin Grieve, Chair – Comox Strathcona Waste Management board, was sent to each First Nation community, along with a copy of the draft Solid Waste Management Plan update. A response form accompanied the mailing, requesting a reply by March 12, 2012. See Appendix II for a copy of the letter and the list of enclosures.

2.1.2 Follow-Up Activities

Following the mailing, the First Nation communities were contacted at regular intervals by telephone and email (i.e., 30, 60, and 90 days after the initial mailing) to encourage a response and to arrange meetings to discuss the implications of the draft plan. All contacts were logged. See Appendix III for a copy of the Contact Log. At the end of the second response period, a discussion paper entitled Key Facts was prepared and faxed to each of the First Nations communities to prompt additional responses. See Appendix IV for a copy of the paper.

2.1.3 Consultation Activities

Six face-to-face consultations with the First Nation communities were arranged during the contract period. Several additional meetings have been requested but not yet scheduled. A professional facilitator was present at all of the face-to-face consultations, and informal notes were produced to document the issues discussed. Copies of these informal notes were forwarded to the CVRD for its consideration to be a part of the First Nations consultation record.

2.2 Map of First Nation Reserves

A base layer map of the electoral areas in the Comox and Strathcona Regional Districts was provided by the Comox Valley Regional District. The location of each reserve was established using data from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada - Internet Geo Viewer. Additional information about the number of reserves that are registered to each First Nation, along with the names of the reserves, was obtained from the Government of Canada - Aboriginal Canada Portal. A Regional District map noting the locations of the fourteen First Nation communities was created and is appended to this report (see Appendix V).

2 http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/ACP/community/site.nsf/eng/bc-all-b.html
Information with respect to the number of reserves, total population, and the largest communities appears in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Nation Band Name</th>
<th>Number of Reserves</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Largest Community</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>Ahaminaquus # 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuchatlaht First Nation</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>Oclucje # 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehattesaht First Nation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>Chenahkint # 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ka’yu:’k’t’h’/Che:k’tles7et’h’ First Nations</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>Houpsitas # 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>K’ómoks First Nation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>Comox # 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tlowitsis Tribe</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Hanatsa # 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kwiakah First Nation</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Saaiyouck # 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>We Wai Kai First Nation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>836</td>
<td>Quinsam # 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wei Wai Kum First Nation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>Campbell River # 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Klahoose First Nation (Cortes Island)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>Tork # 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homalco (Xwemalhkwu) First Nation;</td>
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<td>427</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mamalilikulla-Qwe’Qwa’Sot’Em First Nations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>Compton Island # 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualicum First Nations</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sliammon First Nations</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>Sliammon # 1</td>
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</table>
3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Engagement Outcomes

In general, the First Nation communities within the region needed more time than initially calculated, to consider the implications of the CVRD’s proposed solid waste options. Several of the communities wanted to be briefed in person on the implications of the report and then given time to consult with significant others before committing further consultation and larger meetings. During the time period covered by this report, initial contact was made with all but one of the communities, five preliminary consultations were undertaken, and expressions of interest for additional consultations were obtained from seven other communities. Two First Nation communities submitted a formal, positive response to the initial mailing (see Appendix VI).

The First Nation communities involved in the outreach were concerned about the issues and wanted to learn more about the options under consideration. That twelve of the fourteen First Nation communities responded to the CVRD’s invitation to comment on the draft report demonstrates a high level of interest in participating in the consultative process.

Table 2 summarizes the engagement outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Nation Band Name</th>
<th>Receipt of Information Package Confirmed</th>
<th>Thirty/Sixty/Ninety Day Follow-Up</th>
<th>In person Consultation</th>
<th>Number of First Nation Attendees</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuchatlaht First Nation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Original meeting canceled. New meeting requested but not yet scheduled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehattesaht First Nation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ka’yu’k’t’/Che:k:tlies 7et’h’ First Nations</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Information exchange</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No additional meeting necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Nation Band Name</td>
<td>Receipt of Information Package Confirmed</td>
<td>Thirty/Sixty/Ninety Day Follow-Up</td>
<td>In person Consultation</td>
<td>Number of First Nation Attendees</td>
<td>Outcomes</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>----------------------------------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>K'ómoks First Nation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Information exchange</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Interest in larger meeting (Community, Council or Treaty Team). Formal letter response received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tlowitsis Tribe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwiakah First Nation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Advised that a letter response in being prepared and mailed.</td>
</tr>
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<td>We Wai Kai First Nation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Executive Meeting</td>
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<td>No additional meeting necessary.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Wei Wai Kum First Nation</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>Information exchange</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Interest in Community meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klahoose First Nation (Cortes Island)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Original meeting canceled. Meeting requested, not yet scheduled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homalco (Xwemalhkwu) First Nation;</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Information exchange</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Interest in Community Meeting. Formal letter response received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mamalilikulla-Qwe’Qwa’Sot’Em First Nations</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualicum First Nation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Information Exchange</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Council Meeting requested</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sliammon First Nations</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No meeting necessary.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
3.2 Recommendations and Next Steps

Our recommendations are that the CSWM service continue the consultative process that has been started and that the CVRD consider strengthening its relationships with First Nations by maintaining regular contact through emails, faxes, and face-to-face meetings. The District’s First Nation communities are supportive of the CVRD’s efforts to; improve environmental impacts, reduce the landfilling of residuals as well as expressed interest in CSWM programs and services in general.

Recommendation #1: Continue the consultative process

Specific Actions:

a. Re-schedule and complete meetings in Zeballos with Nuchatlaht and Ehattesaht First Nations, and on Cortes Island with Kalhoose First Nation.

b. Schedule a Community meeting with K’omox, as expressed by the band administrator

c. Continue to follow up with Homalco on the request for a Community Meeting in Campbell River. This could perhaps be a combined event with several of the First Nations in the area

d. Continue to follow up with Qualicum First Nation about a larger meeting with Council

e. Follow up with Wei Wai Kum after their discussion with Council to determine if another meeting is required, or perhaps they would also be interested in attending a larger Community Meeting in Campbell River

f. Follow up with Mowachaht/Muchalaht, Tlowitsis Tribe, Kwiakah, and Mamalilikulla-Qwe’Qwa’Sot’Em to determine if further communication is desired. One option might be to invite them all to a meeting at CVRD.

g. Ensure that We Wai Kai and Ka:’yu:’k’t’h’/Che:ktlles7et’h’ First Nations continue to be included and are sent more resources/education materials to share with their community about recycling and composting as per their requests.

Recommendation #2: Implement a communication program for First Nation communities

Specific Actions:

a. Fax or email CVRD solid waste management press releases, including updates on the SWMP, to each of the District’s First Nation communities on a regular basis

b. Consult with appropriate First Nations located near the landfills in Comox and Campbell River if expansion is planned and continue dialogue

c. Send each First Nation community a small supply of waste reduction educational materials (e.g., posters, brochures, videos) for use at community meetings

d. Offer to meet with Band Councils on an annual basis to update the community on the District’s solid waste management initiatives
4 CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of the consultation was to ensure that First Nations were adequately informed of the Solid Waste Management Planning (SWMP) process and were provided with an opportunity to comment on the options under consideration. The engagement activities undertaken increased the level of understanding of the SWMP process among those that were able to meet with the facilitator. No specific comments on the options under consideration were received during the engagement period. Nonetheless, thirteen of the fourteen First Nation communities have shown an interest in the CVRD’s solid waste management agenda and many of them want to become more engaged in the process.

Each First Nation community tends to approach a request for an official comment somewhat differently. In general, the preferred approach seems to be one that begins with an exchange of information, allows time for internal discussion, and then proceeds to larger meetings involving council members and the community. This process could take upwards of six to nine months.

Closure and Professional Statement

TRI Environmental Consulting Inc. prepared the foregoing report for the exclusive use and information of the Comox Valley Regional District. The information and data were collected and compiled in accordance with the general level of care and skill normally exercised by environmental science and engineering professionals practicing under similar circumstances. During the preparation of this report, TRI has relied on reports, data, studies, specifications, documents, and other secondary data sources. TRI has taken care to verify the information provided where possible, but makes no warranty as to the accuracy of the reports, data, studies, specifications, documents and other secondary data sources and accepts no responsibility for these information sources.

Any use by a third party of the foregoing report, or any reliance upon or decisions made by a third party based on the report, are the sole responsibility of such third parties. TRI Environmental Consulting accepts no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by any third party as a result of decisions made or actions taken based on the foregoing report.

TRI Environmental Consulting Inc.

Thank you for choosing TRI for this Project. Should you have questions concerning this report, or if you require additional information, please contact the undersigned at (604) 436-3384 or at tauseef@tri.bc.ca.

Tauseef Waraich, M.Sc., P.Ag, EP
General Manager
# APPENDIX I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band Name</th>
<th>Contacts</th>
<th>Mailing Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Fax Number</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation</td>
<td>Allison Howard, Recreation Administrator</td>
<td>PO Box 459, Gold River, BC V0P 1G0</td>
<td>1-800-238-2933 250-283-2015</td>
<td>Fax: 250-283-2335</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cynthia.rayner@yuguo.ca">cynthia.rayner@yuguo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cynthia Rainer; Lead Administrator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:wayne.lord@yuguo.ca">wayne.lord@yuguo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wayne Lord</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:rosejack@yuguo.ca">rosejack@yuguo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rose Jack, Social Development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuchatlaht First Nation</td>
<td>Chief Walter Michaels</td>
<td>P.O. Box 40, Zeballos, BC V0P 2A0</td>
<td>250-332-5908</td>
<td>Fax: 250-332-5907</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nuchatlaht@hotmail.com">nuchatlaht@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ida Mills, Manager</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmichael.nuchatlaht@gmail.com">jmichael.nuchatlaht@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lydia Michael</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:littlearchie8@gmail.com">littlearchie8@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehattesaht First Nation</td>
<td>Chief Rose-Ann Billy</td>
<td>Box# 59, 11 Hhen-Kous Pl, Zeballos, BC V0P2A0</td>
<td>250-761-4155</td>
<td>Fax: 250-761-4156</td>
<td><a href="mailto:roseann.billy@ehatis.ca">roseann.billy@ehatis.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Darlene Laviviere</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:darlene.laviviere@ehatis.ca">darlene.laviviere@ehatis.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ernie Smith</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tsel'set'h' First Nations</td>
<td>Chief Councillor Therese Smith</td>
<td>Kyukuot, BC V0P 1J0</td>
<td>250-332-5259</td>
<td>Fax: 250-332-5210</td>
<td><a href="mailto:garya@kcfirstnations.com">garya@kcfirstnations.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gary Ardon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:tsmith.kcfn2011@yahoo.ca">tsmith.kcfn2011@yahoo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'ómoks First Nation</td>
<td>Melinda Knox, Band Manager</td>
<td>3320 Comox Road Comox, BC V9N 3P8</td>
<td>250-339-4545</td>
<td>Fax: 250-339-7053</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@comoxband.ca">info@comoxband.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tina, administration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:melinda.knox@comoxband.ca">melinda.knox@comoxband.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band Name</td>
<td>Contacts</td>
<td>Mailing Address</td>
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<td>Fax Number</td>
<td>Email Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tlowitsis Tribe</td>
<td>Kerry Farrington, Band Manager</td>
<td>1345 Bute Cr, Campbell River, BC V9H1G6</td>
<td>250-923-7815</td>
<td>Fax: 250-923-7816</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tlowi@hughes.net">tlowi@hughes.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natasha, Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Smith</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwiakah First Nation</td>
<td>Band Manager, Frank Voelker</td>
<td>1440 Old Island Highway, Campbell River, BC V9W 2E3</td>
<td>250-286-1295</td>
<td>Fax: 250-286-1285</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kwiakah@telus.net">kwiakah@telus.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Steve Dick, Chief</td>
<td></td>
<td>250-923-1556</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:fvoelker@telus.net">fvoelker@telus.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We Wai Kai First Nation</td>
<td>Chief Ralph Dick</td>
<td>690 Headstart Crescent, Campbell River, BC V9H 1P9</td>
<td>250-285-3316</td>
<td>Fax: 250-285-2400</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Chief@wewaikai.com">Chief@wewaikai.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brian Kelly, Band Administrator</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>250-914-1890</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lise@wewaikai.com">lise@wewaikai.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lise Steele, Director of Lands and Natural Resources</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>(Lise: ext.3)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:barbw@wewaikai.com">barbw@wewaikai.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barb</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>(Brian: ext.2)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:briank@wewaikai.com">briank@wewaikai.com</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wei Wai Kum First Nation</td>
<td>Chief Robert Pollard</td>
<td>1400 Weiwaikum Road, Campbell River, BC V9W 5W8</td>
<td>Toll free: 1-877-286-6949</td>
<td>Fax: 250-287-8838</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bpollard@crband.ca">bpollard@crband.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jason Price Land &amp; Housing Officer</td>
<td></td>
<td>250-286-6949</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jprice@crband.ca">jprice@crband.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ken Cooper</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:kcooper@crband.ca">kcooper@crband.ca</a></td>
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<td>Klahoose First Nation (Cortes Island)</td>
<td>Chief James Delormes</td>
<td>P.O. Box 09, Squirrel Cove, BC V0P 1T0</td>
<td>250-935-6536</td>
<td>Fax: 250-935-6997</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmckellar@klaoose.org">mmckellar@klaoose.org</a></td>
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<td>Kathy Francis</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:kathyfrancis@klaoose.org">kathyfrancis@klaoose.org</a></td>
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<td>Band Name</td>
<td>Contacts</td>
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| Homalco (Xwemalhkwu) First Nation; | Chief Richard Harry  
Alison Trenholm  
Maryann Enevoldsen | 1218 Bute Crescent, Campbell River, BC V9H1G5 | 250-923-4979  | Fax: 250-923-4987 | homalco@directway.com  
homolcofn@hotmail.com  
m.enevoldsen@homalco.com |
| Mamalilikulla - Qwe’Qwa’Sot’Em First Nations | Chief Harold Sewid  
Colleen | 1441A Old Island Highway, Campbell River, BC V9W 2E4 | 250-287-2955  | Fax: 250-287-4655 | cperro@telus.net |
| Qualicum First Nations          | Chief Patricia Cassidy  
Band Manager - Alana Skuce  
Tyleen - Band Administrator  
Darlene - Admin | 5850 River Road, Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1Z5 | 250-757-9337  | Fax: 250-757-9898 | Council2.qualicum@shaw.ca |
| Sliammon First Nations          | Chief Clint Williams  
Craig Galligoss – Crown Land  
Rod Allan – Administration  
Steven Galligos – Manager Capital Projects | RR#2 Sliammon Rd, Powell River, B.C. V8A 4Z3 | 604-483-9646  
Direct:604-483-9696 (ext.223) | Fax:604-483-9769 | Clint.williams@sliammon.bc.ca  
craig.galligos@sliammon.bc.ca  
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Steven.galligos@sliammon.bc.ca |
APPENDIX II
February 24, 2012

Ehattesaht First Nation
Box# 59
11 Hhen-Kous Pl
Zeballos, B.C. V0P2A0

Dear: Chief and Council

Re: Comox Valley Regional District (Comox Strathcona waste management)
solid waste management plan, upcoming consultation process

This letter is being sent to you on behalf of the Comox Valley Regional District board to inform you and the Ehattesaht First Nation about the solid waste management plan and upcoming consultation process.

The board has given its approval for the Comox Strathcona waste management (CSWM) service to move the draft solid waste management plan to public consultation in the first quarter of 2012. This draft plan was developed with the assistance of local community groups, elected representatives, First Nation communities, business and industry, and the Ministry of Environment.

The draft presents several options in pursuit of our long term goals of zero waste, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and minimal impact on the environment and surrounding communities.

We are writing at this time to invite you and the Ehattesaht First Nation to review and comment on the draft solid waste management plan. The plan, which will direct our efforts over the next five years, contains services and programs of possible interest to the Ehattesaht First Nation as well as details on activities that could impact land around your community. In addition, there may be areas of interest or concern that you would like considered before the plan is finalized. Please find enclosed a copy of the draft plan, along with background information on the planning process.

We are able to offer and hold a series of First Nation community meetings in late March to discuss the implications of the plan. With this timeframe in mind, we would appreciate a written response to this letter indicating your interest in joining the dialogue on the solid waste management plan by Friday, March 10, 2012.
Your response can be sent by mail, email, or fax to our consultant, TRI Environmental Consulting Inc. A response form is included in the package for your convenience.

Mail:   TRI Environmental Consulting Inc.  
        6961 Russell Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5J 4R8  
Email:  tauseef@tri.bc.ca  
Fax:    604-436-3388

In the spirit of environmental stewardship, we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

E. Grieve

Edwin Grieve
Chair

Enclosures

☑ Response form
☑ Next steps - The Role of First Nation Communities
☑ The solid waste management planning process flow chart
☑ Open house and presentation schedule
☑ Comox Strathcona solid waste management plan – Stage 2 report
☑ Waste to energy options assessment

cc:    Debra Oakman, chief administrative officer
      Ian Smith, general manager of community services branch
      Tom Boatman, manager of solid waste
APPENDIX IV
April 16, 2012

Ehattesaht First Nation
PO Box 59
Zeballos, BC
V0P 2A0

Sent via email only: roseann.billy@ehatis.ca
darlene.laviviere@ehatis.ca

Dear: Chief and Council

RE: key options - Comox Valley Regional District (Comox Strathcona waste management)
solid waste management plan

This letter is being sent to you on behalf of the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) board to inform you and the Ehattesaht First Nation about the solid waste management plan and on-going consultation process.

Highlights of key options for the solid waste management plan are presented in the attached letter. These options may or may not affect the local land and community, directly or indirectly. TRI Environmental Consulting Inc. (TRI) is arranging meetings in April/May of 2012 to consult and discuss these potential effects with you. Please call or email to discuss at your earliest convenience. We will be pleased to have your in-put by April 20, 2012.

In the spirit of environmental stewardship, we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

TRI Environmental Consultants Inc.

Tauseef Waraich
General Manager

Tel: 604-436-3384
Fax: 604-436-3388
Cell: 604-319-3773
Tauseef@tri.bc.ca
Key Options for Solid Waste Management in the Comox Valley and Strathcona Regional Districts

1. Expanding existing landfills: our immediate need

The two regional landfills in the Comox Valley and Campbell River are almost full. Creating more landfill space is an important and immediate need. Three options are being considered – basically to expand one OR the other regional landfill OR both. All regional landfill options would include the following:

- Closure and capping of the old landfill site
- Construction of a new, lined engineered landfill adjacent to the closed landfill
- Leachate collection and treatment
- Landfill gas collection and treatment and/or utilization
- A transfer station to replace any landfill that is not expanded (waste would be transferred to the new regional landfill)

The waste disposal services for each community would remain the same – the key difference is whether the waste would be transported to one landfill or the other. A brief description and estimated costs for each option is provided below. These costs include building and operating transfer stations and landfills including transporting the waste.

One landfill:
Expand Campbell River waste management centre landfill. Replace Comox Valley waste management centre landfill with a permanent transfer station and transport the waste to Campbell River waste management centre landfill at an estimated cost of $71/tonne of landfilled waste

One landfill:
Expand Comox Valley waste management centre landfill. Replace Campbell River waste management centre landfill with a permanent transfer station and transport the waste to Comox Valley waste management centre landfill at an estimated cost of $62/tonne of landfilled waste

Two landfills:
Expand both landfills to accommodate the region’s waste. No long distance transport of waste required between landfills at an estimated cost of $68/tonne of landfilled waste
2. Waste-to-energy: future opportunities

Consideration is being given to waste-to-energy technologies for managing our disposal needs in the future. Waste-to-energy technologies include gasification, incineration and pyrolysis. A waste-to-energy (WTE) facility can help to reduce the amount of waste that is landfilled and can generate heat and power. To be cost-effective, waste-to-energy technologies typically require more waste than we create in this region, which may require working with other regions. The proposed recommendations related to WTE are:

- Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) should continue to investigate new waste-to-energy technologies as a future option for our area
- To improve the cost-effectiveness of WTE, CSWM should explore opportunities to work with other regions

3. Tahsis and Zeballos Waste Management Centres

The landfills in Tahsis and Zeballos are not in compliance with the BC’s Landfill Criteria. However, there is local community interest in maintaining the landfill sites in the short-term. Once these landfills are closed, the long-range plan for the Tahsis and Zeballos landfills is to construct and operate a transfer station in each community and to utilize remaining landfill capacity for the disposal of inert waste. To minimize transportation requirements, the compaction of the waste prior to transport is also recommended.

Long Term Options

- Build a transfer station in Tahsis and Zeballos
- Tahsis waste would be transported to the Campbell River Waste Management Center
- Zeballos waste would be transported to the 7-Mile Landfill near Port Hardy.

Other Key Options:

- Provide food waste collection to residents with curbside garbage collection
- To improve recycling levels, require recycling services at multi-family buildings and businesses
- Set up one household hazardous waste depot in each regional district and provide a mobile collection service to smaller communities.
- Improve efforts to minimize illegal dumping.
APPENDIX V
LOCATION OF FIRST NATIONS WITHIN THE COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

CLIENT: COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

REV DATE DESCRIPTION

C92.201

Figure 1
APPENDIX VI
April 19, 2012

Edwin Grieve
TRI Environmental Consulting Inc.
6961 Russell Avenue
Burnaby, BC V5J 4R8

RE: Application: Comox Valley Regional District; (Comox-Strathcona Waste Management); Solid Waste Management Plan – Stage 2

Dear Edwin Grieve,

Thank you for your letter of April 4, 2012. At this time we do not object to your proposal. The Xwémálhkwu First Nation is however, completing our Land Use Plan, our Traditional Use Plan and an Archaeological Overview of our Traditional Lands. This work is scheduled for completion in 2012 and at that time we reserve the right to provide further comment.

In regards to the proposed activity / development in the referral listed above, we will defer this referral to the “Comox First Nation.”

Respectfully,

Mary-Ann Enevoldsen
Xwémálhkwu Treaty Coordinator
April 23, 2012

Mr. Edwin Grieve, Chair
Comox Valley Regional District
600 Comox Road
Courtenay, BC V9N 3P6

Dear Mr. Grieve:

Re: Comox Valley Regional District Solid Waste Management Plan (referral package)

The K'ómoks First Nation recently received an extensive referral package on the Comox Valley Regional District’s (CVRD) solid waste management plan and consultation process.

We recognize that this is a critically important plan to the CVRD and to K'ómoks First Nation, however we require a longer time frame to consider the implications of this plan on our community and the population in the Valley.

In addition, by this letter we look forward to a meeting between K'ómoks First Nation and CVRD staff to discuss and assess these implications.

We understand from the flow chart enclosed with the referral package that the CVRD is nearing the final stages of the project and anticipate that the next step will be the preparation of a final plan for CVRD Board and Ministry of Environment approval. We request that this step not be initiated until adequate consultation has been completed with the K'ómoks First Nation on the solid waste management plan.

Sincerely,

Melinda Knox
Band Manager