

Maliview Wastewater Treatment Plant

Community Update



Capital Regional District | January 2025

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is in the process of upgrading the Maliview Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on Salt Spring Island to comply with provincial requirements, federal wastewater regulations and the *Fisheries Act*. This update provides information about the project to share with residents outlining what has been done over the past year and next steps.

Major Equipment Purchased

The major equipment for the project was put out for competitive tender and awarded to [Nexom Inc.](#), a well-known and reputable supplier of wastewater treatment process equipment. The first load of equipment arrived on October 15 and is being stored at CRD facilities on Salt Spring Island, ready for installation by the field construction contractor. The items being stored includes reactor media, aeration equipment, chemical dosing skids, air blowers and control panels. Another load of equipment arrived in mid-December and is being similarly stored at CRD facilities.

Detailed Design Drawings (95%) Received for Review

Our design engineering consultant, Associated Engineering Ltd. (AE), provided us with 95% detailed design drawings, specifications and the Process Control Narrative on November 1. We are in the process of reviewing the documents.

Opinion of Probable Cost Received

Along with the detailed design drawings, the CRD received AE's estimation of probable cost which reflects the dramatic increase in construction costs since the original estimate developed in 2020 which the grant application was based upon. We have experienced similar cost inflation on other long-term projects. Further analysis of the estimate is required to determine the amount of debt funding for the project and will be presented to residents in advance of an electoral assent process.

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Investigation of Additional Funding Sources

The CRD is actively seeking additional sources of funding to reduce the debt burden on Maliview residents. We have also approached Infrastructure Canada, the entity that provided the original \$1,989,000 grant, to request that they revisit the grant amount considering increased costs since the grant was awarded.

Construction Contractor

The CRD is preparing to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the construction portion of the project by compiling a list of qualified contractors who might be interested in the project and with whom we have had previous positive experience. The RFP will be issued publicly and will follow our [Procurement Policy](#) to ensure that we attain the best value from suitably qualified contractors using processes that are competitive, open, transparent and non-discriminatory.

Inflow and Infiltration Investigation and Repair

As a requirement under the Municipal Wastewater Regulation, the CRD must undertake a study to determine the inflow and infiltration of groundwater and rainwater into the sewer conveyance lines and recommend measures to reduce it as well as timelines for implementing these measures. This work will take place in 2025 and will involve video inspection of the sewer pipe as well as smoke testing to identify repair and remediation work which will be completed on a priority basis. Approval for the funding of this work will be sought in conjunction with the electoral assent process for the WWTP Upgrade project.

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Other Upcoming Capital Improvements

Residents of Maliview are served by the Maliview sewer system as well as the Highland/Fernwood water system. The following major capital projects have been listed on consecutive capital plans (both Maliview and Highland/Fernwood) for the last few years and were presented to the [Maliview Sewer Local Service Commission](#) and the [Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission](#). Visit <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/board-committees/board-committees-and-commissions>. Maliview residents are rate payers on both systems. As a reminder, the projects are:

- Investigation and repair of inflow and infiltration into Maliview sewer conveyance lines.
- Replacement of Upper Reservoir in the Highland/Fernwood water system.
- Replacement or major repair of Middle Reservoir in the Highland/Fernwood water system.
- Provision of back up power generation for the Highland/Fernwood water system.
- Upgrading of electrical and control system at the Highland/Fernwood Water Treatment Plant.
- Replacement of asbestos cement water distribution lines in the Highland/Fernwood water system.

Electoral Assent

The Local Government Act requires the CRD to conduct an Electoral Assent Process to authorize the borrowing of funds for the Maliview WWTP. There are various methods to obtain electoral assent for the project including a referendum, an Alternative Approval Process (AAP) or a petition. For smaller service areas, such as the Maliview system, a petition is often the preferred method as it is the most economical method. It should be noted that if electoral assent is not obtained, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has the power to issue fines and order the project to proceed regardless of the outcome.

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Information Session

The CRD intends to hold a public information session to provide more information and an opportunity for residents to ask questions in 2025. Notice of the event will be provided to residents and interested parties once the details have been determined.

Additional Information

More information about the Maliview sewer system and treatment facility can be found on the [Maliview Estates Wastewater Treatment page](#) and additional project information can be found on the [Maliview Wastewater Infrastructure Update page](#). Visit <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/capital-projects>