Frequently Asked Questions

Core Area Wastewater Service

Capital Regional District | June 2026

What is the Core Area and Western Communities Liquid Waste Management Service (the "Service")?

- The CRD's Liquid Waste Management Service takes a comprehensive approach to managing wastewater, stormwater, and other liquid wastes from the participating municipalities. The Core Area and Western Communities Liquide Waste service supports Victoria, Esquimalt, Saanich, Oak Bay, View Royal, Langford and Colwood. The service is designed to protect public health, safeguard the environment, and support the region's critical infrastructure. The service's primary function is to collect wastewater from the seven municipalities and two First Nations and carry the untreated wastewater to the McLoughlin Point Wastewater Treatment Plant where it is treated before the effluent is discharged to the marine environment. Residual solids from the McLoughlin Point Wastewater Treatment Plant are piped to the Residuals Treatment Facility at Hartland Landfill, where they are treated and turned into Class A biosolids. The service also includes operational, educational, and regulatory programs to ensure safe waste discharge and address the impacts of contaminants. This work reflects the CRD's ongoing commitment to environmental protection and community well-being.

Why is a long-term capital program for the Service needed?

- A long-term capital program helps identify, prioritize and plan the funding needed to deliver required wastewater projects. It provides a holistic five-year view of project timing, funding requirements, and delivery schedules to help projects be delivered as planned.

- While the CRD regularly undertakes system renewal and improvement work, existing loan funding has now been fully utilized. Additional funding is therefore required to support planned capital investments over the next five years.

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What would the proposed borrowing authority support?

- If approved, the proposed borrowing authority would support capital renewal and upgrade projects identified in the 2026 to 2030 Financial Plan. Actual financing would only be accessed later, as needed, through subsequent Board-approved borrowing steps.

- These investments are necessary to maintain service reliability and help ensure critical wastewater infrastructure continues to operate as intended.

- Timely renewal and improvements of aging wastewater assets reduce the risk of system failures that could lead to environmental impacts, regulatory non-compliance, or costly emergency repairs.

- Proactive investment extends asset life and supports the safe, reliable collection and treatment of wastewater.

What is the total borrowing authority being proposed?

- The total Core Area Wastewater capital plan for 2026 to 2030 is $100.05 million. Of that amount, up to $59.29 million is currently planned to be funded through borrowing, subject to the required approval steps.
    - The proposed borrowing authority is split between two bylaws:
        - Bylaw No. 4750 - $24.45 million, for capital projects already reflected in the CRD's Liquid Waste Management Plan, which was approved by the BC Ministry of Environment
        - Bylaw No. 4699 - $34.84 million, for additional capital renewal and upgrade works arising since approval of the Liquid Waste Management Plan and requiring elector approval.

What projects will this funding support?

- Projects identified in the CRD's approved 2026 Financial Plan that would be supported through this funding include, but are not limited to:
    - Core Area Sewers, Manholes and Chamber Repairs & Upgrades

- Shoreline Trunk Sewer Upgrade
- Pump Station Renewal Program
- Design, site planning, and air quality modelling for introducing carbonisation technology at the Residuals Treatment Facility

Who can participate in this AAP?

- Eligible electors within the service area may participate in the AAP. This includes electors in the participating Core Area jurisdiction served by the Core Area Wastewater system which includes:
  - Victoria
  - Esquimalt
  - Saanich
  - Oak Bay
  - View Royal
  - Langford
  - Colwood

What is the expected approval timeline of the AAP?

- The anticipated timing for the Core Area Liquid Waste Service AAP is as follows:
  - March 11, 2026 – 1st, 2nd, 3rd reading of Bylaw No. 4699 by the CRD Board, with direction to proceed to an AAP
  - March 12 to May 7, 2026 – Bylaw No. 4699 receives approval of the Inspector of Municipalities
  - June 10, 2026 – AAP requirements reviewed by the CRD Board
  - June 18, 2026 – AAP response period begins
  - July 31, 2026 – AAP response period ends
  - September 9, 2026 – AAP results reported to the CRD Board and, if applicable, final adoption of Bylaw No. 4699

What if elector approval is not obtained?

- If elector approval is not obtained, meaning more than 10% of the eligible electors submit elector response forms by the AAP deadline, the CRD may either proceed to assent voting (referendum) not more than 80 days after the deadline for receiving elector response forms or reconsider the proposed bylaws and next steps.

Where can I find more information on the AAP process?

- For more information about the Alternative Approval Process (AAP), including who can participate, where to find a response form, and how forms may be submitted, please visit www.crd.ca/Wastewater-AAP