



Standing Committee Report Electoral Area Services Committee

To: Electoral Area Services Committee
From: Associate Director of Engineering
Date: March 5, 2026
Subject: 2026 Westside Liquid Waste Management Plan Update

Objective: To inform the Electoral Area Services Committee regarding next steps for the Westside Liquid Waste Management Plan update.

Discussion:

A Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) is a comprehensive document approved by the Province through the BC Environmental Management Act to provide a framework for wastewater management across defined areas of a Regional District. Specific to the Electoral Areas, the LWMP provides a framework by guiding how wastewater servicing and environmental protection considerations shape land use decisions and future growth.

The RDCO's Westside LWMP was last updated in 2000. The BC Interim Guidelines for preparing Liquid Waste Management Plans clearly states:

"Local governments must review the progress and status of LWMPs every 5 to 10 years, or more frequently during times of significant inflation or when circumstances have changed significantly from when the original plan was developed. The LWMP review will determine whether or not an amendment or update is required."

In 2023, the RDCO and the Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV) reviewed the status of the short-term and long-term objectives of the Westside LWMP and outlined a plan for updating it. The plan recommended completing some pre-planning work before proceeding, which would help prioritize and focus on certain tasks as the Westside LWMP update begins.

Pre-planning work focused on engagement and objectives common to the RDCO and member municipalities participating within the Westside Wastewater Treatment Service, including confirming growth projections, septic conversions to sewer, stormwater management, water reuse, biosolids management, and future Westside Regional Wastewater treatment plant upgrades.

Pre-planning work is now complete and it is anticipated that the Regional Board's direction to formally initiate an update to the Westside LWMP will be sought in the near term.

Electoral Area Specific Outcomes: The 1.0 Hectare Policy

The RDCO's Westside LWMP does not permit alternatives to the 1.0 Hectare Policy. High levels of engagement are mandatory and required by the BC legislation throughout a LWMP update, and this may include exploration of alternatives to the 1.0 Hectare Rule. If alternatives to the 1.0 Hectare policy

are brought up during Westside LWMP engagement, additional work and investigation may take place as directed by the Board.

Next Steps:

Completing pre-planning work is consistent with previous discussions with the Ministry of Environment and Parks and sets the stage for a successful transition into the LWMP update process. This information will be presented to the Regional Board in 2026, and Board approval is necessary to commence the LWMP update process.

Subject to Board approval, the Westside LWMP update is anticipated to take approximately two to three years to complete. The update will require consultation with municipalities, First Nations, local environment groups, residents, local business groups, operators of private liquid waste facilities, generators of large liquid waste discharges, local school districts, health authorities, Provincial and Federal agencies, and others as needed.

The following next steps are anticipated:

1. Recommend to the Regional Board to formally initiate an update to the Westside LWMP.
2. Initiate engagement as per the provincial guide for Liquid Waste Management Plans.
3. Complete the three-stage update process:
 - Inventory of existing conditions and development projections
 - Detailed evaluation and preferred options
 - Summary of LWMP, financing, and implementation schedule

Upon completion of the preceding steps, the last obligation is to submit the Westside LWMP for approval by the Minister of Environment and Parks.

The Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC) will be involved in relevant stages of the Westside LWMP, particularly on issues related to electoral area financing, services, or advocacy that fall under its purview.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Electoral Area Services Committee receives the 2026 Westside Liquid Waste Management Plan update from the Associate Director of Engineering dated March 5, 2026 for information.

Respectfully submitted by: Travis Kendel, Associate Director of Engineering

Report Approved by: Danielle Noble-Brandt, Director of Development and Engineering Services

Approved for Agenda: Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment(s):

1. 2026-02-16 – Westside LWMP update presentation.pptx
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