
TRANSFER OF WATER FACILITIES

Effective Date: February 24, 2017

Approved By: GVWD Board

Policy No. UT-005

PURPOSE

Using the criteria that define regional versus local government water facilities, this Policy identifies the process that may be considered when contemplating the transfer of ownership of water facilities to, or from, the regional water system.

DEFINITIONS

“GVWD Act” means the *Greater Vancouver Water District Act*; and

References to **“Facilities”** in this Policy are references to the facilities described in sections 5(1)(b), 5(1)(c) and 48 of the *GVWD Act*.

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Pursuant to sections 5(1)(b), 5(1)(c) and 48 of the *GVWD Act*, the Greater Vancouver Water District’s (GVWD’s) powers include the acquisition, construction and maintenance of waterworks and waterworks systems and their associated lands, water, buildings, mains and pipes, and the power to designate the mains or pipes of its system and the location thereof as “main conduits”. Planning, development, ownership and operation of the regional water systems and associated facilities will include consideration of this Policy.

During the process of developing the *2005 Drinking Water Management Plan (DWMP)*, GVWD and municipal staff considered how to include the definition of regional water facilities adopted by the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee and the Regional Administrative Advisory Committee in 2002. Subsequently, in September 2005 the GVWD Board approved within the DWMP the following action built into the Plan.

To facilitate the efficient planning of the future water system, the GVWD and member municipalities will follow the approved principles defining what facilities will be owned and operated by the GVWD.

The criteria and definition are as follows:

- 1. As of November 29, 2002, all existing and committed regional major water facilities and proposed upgrades and replacements shall remain the responsibility of the GVWD.*
- 2. New regional major water facilities are defined as:*

- i. a regional main conduit that goes through one municipality to service another or services more than one municipality; or*
 - ii. a regional main conduit that is required for operational efficiency or to provide adequate redundancy for reliability and security of the regional system; or*
 - iii. a facility which if taken off-line affects a municipality other than the one in which it is located.*
- 3. The capital cost sharing arrangements between the GVWD and member municipalities for new major water facilities continue to be determined on a case by case basis.*

KEY STEPS WHEN CONSIDERING A TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

Generally, the intent of transferring ownership of facilities is to better align ownership, responsibility, and operational and management flexibility for facilities. As such, a key principle is that all transfers will be voluntary so that both parties cooperatively enter into the process to transfer ownership of infrastructure. The key steps that may be followed when considering a transfer of ownership are summarized below.

1. Identification of the Facility to be Considered for Transfer

Where a facility owned by a local government is within the definition of a regional facility, local government will identify the facility and in consultation with the GVWD, consider whether to explore transfer of ownership of the facility to the GVWD. Similarly, where a facility owned by the GVWD is no longer within the definition of regional facility, GVWD will identify the facility and in consultation with the local government, consider whether to explore transfer of ownership of the facility to the local government.

2. Confirm that the Facility Meets the Transfer Criteria

In either case, the facility in question needs to be tested against the criteria endorsed by the GVWD Board to confirm that the facility is eligible to be transferred.

3. Communicate the Request to Transfer

Once the facility to be transferred has been identified and confirmed to meet the transfer criteria, one of the parties as appropriate may formally initiate a request in writing to transfer ownership of the facility.

4. Develop a Transfer Agreement

An agreement to transfer infrastructure may be developed on a case-by-case basis, typically as a formal proposal from one party to another, or through a transfer agreement. In developing the agreement, a number of studies and reviews may be undertaken, including technical (such as condition and capacity), operational impacts, properties, financial, and legal. Staff time and

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related costs to undertake the studies and develop the transfer agreement are the responsibility of each party.

5. Approval of the Transfer by Council and Board

The transfer must be approved by both the local government Council and the GVWD Board. Approval is sought through a staff report, along with an attached transfer agreement or proposal.