

To: Utilities Committee

From: Fred Nenninger, Project Manager, Wastewater Secondary Treatment Upgrades

Date: March 15, 2013 Meeting Date: April 4, 2013

Subject: **Lions Gate Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant – Project Update**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report titled “Lions Gate Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant – Project Update” dated March 15, 2013.

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**PURPOSE**

To update the Board on the work underway to complete the Project Definition Phase for the Lions Gate Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant (LGSWWTP) upgrade.

**BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan approved by the BC Minister of Environment in 2011, the Lions Gate plant requires upgrading to secondary treatment by 2020. The Board authorized funds in the 2011 budget to proceed with the initial work, including the Project Definition Phase.

**DISCUSSION**

**Technical Work**

The technical team continues to develop solutions and opportunities that would meet the four project objectives of secondary level treatment, sustainability targets, integrated resource recovery opportunities and community integration/enhancement. The team completed Integrated Design Process (IDP) Workshop #4 in February. Concept options were screened against criteria to identify approaches and technologies that will be brought forward for business case analysis. Three project build scenarios are being prepared that will be used to business case and test the various concepts and their trade-offs.

A series of three workshops is being planned for the Utilities Committee (with an invitation extended to the members of the Intergovernmental and Administration Committee) with the first scheduled for April 10, 2013. Given the scale and complexity of the project and the important decisions to be made, these workshops will provide a forum whereby the Committee members will gain in-depth knowledge of the alternatives and trade-offs to define and develop an indicative design for the new Lions Gate plant.

## Financial Status

	Budget Appr'd to Date	Project Definition Phase Initial Budget	Expenditure to Date	Committed to Date	Projected Cost
As of Jan 31, 2013	\$20,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$2,474,421	\$5,188,835	\$8,000,000

## Funding

In May, 2012 Metro Vancouver applied for funding of the Project Definition Phase under the Province's Innovations Fund (administered under the Gas Tax program). In January, 2013 the Province announced the projects that will be funded under the program. The program was over prescribed in the order of a ratio of 8 to 1 (applicants to funded projects). The total funds available in the category applicable to Metro Vancouver's application was \$3.8 million. The Lions Gate Secondary Treatment Project was not one of the projects selected by the Province under this program.

In January 2013, Metro Vancouver applied to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund program for partial funding of the Project Definition Phase. Up to \$175,000 is available from the fund for project definition work. The review and screening process is expected to take approximately 4 months.

Metro Vancouver continues to work closely with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in advocating for the federal government to replace the expiring Building Canada Fund with a new long-term infrastructure program (LTIP) that includes a core component for wastewater treatment upgrades. Government is expected to make an announcement on the new LTIP within the next 2-3 weeks, as part of its 2013 budget rollout. Metro Vancouver also wrote Finance Minister James Flaherty in February, urging him and his Cabinet colleagues to introduce an infrastructure funding program that includes sufficient funding to catch up on the infrastructure backlog; a timeframe that allows for effective asset life-cycle management; and program architecture that provides funding certainty for local governments to ensure proper planning and decision-making.

Metro Vancouver has also initiated a political advocacy program at the provincial level that includes a significant emphasis on infrastructure funding; largely comprising a webpage, "Local Government Matters", that will be launched in early April, the strategy looks to secure a provincial commitment to match any federal funding for wastewater treatment plant upgrades from whichever of the four main political parties wins the May 14, 2013 election in BC. Metro Vancouver will be scheduling meetings with the new Minister of Finance and Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure as soon after the provincial election as is practical to discuss our infrastructure priorities over the next 10-20 years.

Metro Vancouver also continues with its direct advocacy efforts with local MPs and MLAs, and has secured meetings with North Shore Members of Parliament Andrew Saxton (Conservative - North Vancouver) and John Weston (Conservative - West Vancouver/Sunshine Coast/Sea-to-Sky Country) later in March to update them on plans for the LGSWWTP upgrades. In addition, Metro Vancouver is working with staff in the office of the new Chair of the Conservative BC-Yukon Caucus, MP Mark Strahl (Chilliwack/Fraser Canyon), to schedule a meeting with Mr. Strahl to update him on the upgrades as well.

### **Engagement and Consultation Program**

Metro Vancouver is providing information and opportunities for input to all potentially affected residents and organizations within member municipalities with a particular focus on the Districts of North and West Vancouver (DNV and DWV) and the City of North Vancouver (CNV).

#### ***The Public***

A public meeting will be held on April 24, 2013 to provide project information to the wider public, and discuss potential options affecting the plant design. The project website (see link under Attachments and References) will be updated to provide this information. Notification about the meeting will be provided through website postings (Metro Vancouver, DNV, CNV and DWV), newspaper advertising, project databases and flyers to the surrounding community.

#### ***Lions Gate Public Advisory Committee***

The fourth meeting of the Lions Gate Public Advisory Committee (LGPAC) was held on February 6, 2013. Technical information discussed included flow projections, Integrated Resource Recovery (IRR) and the decision assessment framework. Members offered a wide range of questions, comments and feedback throughout the meeting. A meeting summary is on the project webpage.

#### ***Norgate Park Community Association***

In March there will be two events with the Norgate community: a community open house on March 7, 2013 at the Norgate Elementary School and an open house for local businesses on March 12, 2013.

#### ***Additional Workshops***

A workshop will be held in mid-March providing an opportunity for participants to spend more time learning about, and discussing issues related to, project procurement and IRR. On April 18, 2013 a community workshop will be held for participants to provide input to the technical design process. Invitees to these workshops include the Community Resource Forum (CRF) and the LGPAC.

#### ***Metro Vancouver Members***

Opportunities for input and presentations to representatives of member municipalities will continue through Metro Vancouver advisory committees, and through delegations to Mayors and Councils. A project workshop will be held with the three North Shore Mayors and Councils on April 17, 2013.

#### ***Lions Gate Intergovernmental Advisory Committee***

The Lions Gate Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (LGIAC) now has representation from senior staff of the North Shore municipalities, Federal and Provincial agencies and the Squamish Nation. The LGIAC was also invited to a session of IDP workshop #4 in February.

#### ***First Nations***

Letters are being prepared to be sent to the 31 First Nations, Tribal Councils and Treaty Groups/Associations that have traditional territories that lie within, overlap with, or have shared interests within the project area, advising them of the project milestones and engagement

opportunities. Specific engagement meetings are being planned for discussions with Squamish Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation and the Musqueam Indian Band.

***Provincial and Federal Government Agencies***

Government agencies will be notified of the consultation process, and will be given opportunities to participate, including their current involvement in the LGIAC.

**ALTERNATIVES**

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The LGSWWTP project is proceeding according to budget and schedule.

**SUMMARY / CONCLUSION**

The technical work for the Lions Gate Secondary Treatment Plant project has now progressed to the preparation of three build scenarios for the project. A workshop has been set for April 10, 2013 (with the Utilities Committee invitation extended to the members of the Intergovernmental and Administration Committee) to begin to review these build scenarios and their associated business cases.

Work on the engagement strategy for funding continues with the federal and provincial governments, including upcoming meetings with MPs and the Chair of the Conservative BC-Yukon Caucus.

This report provides an update on the engagement and consultation activities recently completed and in progress for the Project Definition Phase of the LGSWWTP project. Meetings and workshops will continue through 2013 with the LGPAC, the CRF and members of the local community. The program will be carried out in collaboration with North Shore municipalities, providing residents, First Nations, and those with a specific interest in the project with continued opportunities for input.

**Attachments and References:**

The project website: [www.metrovancouver.org/lionsgate](http://www.metrovancouver.org/lionsgate)

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