

OKANAGAN
SIMILKAMEEN

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

PRESS RELEASE
November 18, 2009

Open House for the Okanagan Falls Liquid Waste Management Plan
Amendment

An Open House is being held on Wednesday November 18th to discuss the Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) amendment currently being developed for Okanagan Falls and the surrounding areas. Fortunately the RDOS has completed extensive studies and public consultation in previous years, so the Ministry of the Environment has allowed the fast tracking of the LWMP process.

A LWMP is defined as a plan for local government that charts the future course of action with respect to sewage, stormwater and other wastewaters. The plan generally addresses management, collection, treatment, and effluent disposition in the process laid out by the Ministry of the Environment. The main items addressed in the Okanagan Falls LWMP amendment are incorporating the new site for the future treatment plant and selecting chosen options for managing the wastewater. After the public consultation in the Open House, the Stage 1 / 2 Report can be finalized and presented to the RDOS Board for consideration based on all the information developed throughout the LWMP process.

In 2004, the RDOS began the process of identifying wastewater issues and needs for the residents of Okanagan Falls. The "Okanagan Falls Sewage Treatment Plant Strategic Review Study" was completed in 2005. That study short-listed ten options and described the preferred solutions for the future of wastewater treatment in the Okanagan Falls area. Surveys conducted showed that almost 90% of Okanagan Falls residents supported the development of a new treatment plant downstream of the existing one provided a two-thirds federal/provincial grant was obtained.

In 2007, sewer servicing options were assessed for the communities of Kaleden and Skaha Estates. The study detailed various management and treatment options for the communities. The lowest cost option was determined to be pumping the wastewater from both areas to the new Okanagan Falls treatment plant.

Due to the strong public support from the Okanagan Falls, Kaleden and Skaha Estates areas, the RDOS began applying for senior government funding, research and purchase a property south of the existing plant, and initiated the update of the LWMP.

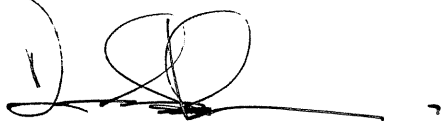
Senior government funding of \$6.25 million has now been awarded to the RDOS for the \$10.1 million project of building a new treatment plant. An engineering consultant will be hired to undertake the detailed technical analysis and design. The objective will be to create a treatment plant with innovative solutions that blends into the natural surroundings and has high standards for odour control.

Additional Resources:

- Wastewater Watch newsletter: An Okanagan Falls Sewer Project Update, November 2009.

If you have any questions relating to the LWMP or the new sewage treatment facility project please contact:

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Lijsa Bloomfield at 250-490-4229 or e-mail lbloomfield@rdos.bc.ca

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Ashton', written over a horizontal line.

D. Ashton
RDOS Board Chair

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