



## Water Treatment

In 2006 the Drinking Water Treatment Objectives in BC were updated to include higher levels of treatment for surface water. These Objectives require us to design and construct a water treatment plant or find a compliant water source. In 2012 the residents of Cherry Creek voted in favour for the treatment of Lacey Lake and Cold Creek water (our current water source). Since then, Cherry Creek has been working with Golder Engineering on designing a water treatment process to meet these regulations.

We have received final treatment design drawings and have been working with McGill Engineering to estimate the overall cost of the completed project. We are nearing the point where we will be seeking the public's thoughts and approval once again. As we begin to gather all the information for public engagement, we ask that residents begin thinking about our two options listed below.

This information sheet will be the first of many provided throughout this process. We encourage all residents to voice their concerns and ask questions. Please email [ccww.info@shaw.ca](mailto:ccww.info@shaw.ca) with any queries you may have.

### What options do we have?

#### **Option 1**

##### **Build a Treatment Plant**

- Project continues with final building design and costing
- Water source remains Lacey Lake, with a higher level of treatment
- New Plant will include provisions for future expansion
- Tax will increase to fund this project
- Cost of water is determined by the demands of the service
- This option could be supported by both governance models (Improvement District and ACRD)

#### **Option 2**

##### **"Bulk Water" option would require endorsement from the City of Port Alberni**

- Requires an in-depth engineering review of infrastructure on both sides
- Water source is China Creek and Bainbridge, requires confirmation this source will facilitate the addition of Cherry Creek
- Will require a "Bulk Water Agreement" with the city (like Beaver Creek)
- Cost of water is regulated by the city of Port Alberni
- This option could be supported by both governance models (Improvement District and ACRD)

# CHERRY CREEK WATERWORKS DISTRICT

**\*RESIDENTS, PLEASE READ\***

## Governance

Cherry Creek has been at a *Governance*\* crossroad for some time now. We are currently governed under the Improvement District model, however the Government of British Columbia has been encouraging Improvement Districts all over BC to convert their services to the Regional District. Under an Improvement District, the burden of funding falls with the residents of Cherry Creek. With the Regional District *governance* model, the burden of funding is also with the residents of Cherry Creek but the province has a number of grants available that are not available to the Improvement District. In addition to access to grants, there are greater possible savings through the elimination of duplicated expenses as well as through lower borrowing costs for capital improvements. We aim to have details available to you as part of our public engagement and we will also be enlisting third-party consultation to help address any questions and concerns that you may have. **Both options below allow Cherry Creek to remain Cherry Creek.**

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### What are the options?

#### Option 1

##### **Remain an Improvement District**

- Remains the Cherry Creek Improvement District
- Would remain a 5-trustee board, with 1 Area Director on the Regional District board
- Trustee nominations accepted every 3 years
- The board remains solely accountable to our residents
- Current staffing would increase
- No access to Provincial Grants and funding
- Both options support the residents' decision on water treatment

#### Option 2

##### **Conversion to ACRD Model**

- Services would become part of the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District keeping the title of Cherry Creek (like Beaver Creek & Sproat Lk)
- Retains a 5-member *advisory committee*, with 1 Area Director on the Regional District board
- Director elections are held every 4 years
- Director would remain accountable to the entire ACRD Board as well as residents of Cherry Creek
- Staffing would increase and gain access to the full range of ACRD staffing
- Gain access to Provincial Grants and funding
- Both options support the residents' decision on water treatment

*\*The Local Government Act has been created for the following purpose, which helps define governance:*

*(a) to provide a legal framework and foundation for the establishment and continuation of local governments to represent the interests and respond to the needs of their communities,*

*(b) to provide local governments with the powers, duties and functions necessary for fulfilling their purposes, and*

*(c) to provide local governments with the flexibility to respond to the different needs and changing circumstances of their communities.*