



**Council Member Motion**  
**For the Special Council Meeting of December 18, 2015**

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**To:** Council  
**From:** Councillor Young  
**Subject:** Wastewater Treatment Sites

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**Date:** December 15, 2015

**Background:**

Current CRD plans foresee a major plant in Rock Bay under any of the several options being considered. Right now City of Victoria taxpayers are relatively indifferent to whether other plants are added to the system, because under the current cost allocation the municipalities that benefit from those other plants bear the entire cost of those plants. However, the new board chair has indicated she believes the current cost allocation system should be changed to allocate some of the costs of those extra plants to Victoria taxpayers. It would be in Colwood's interest to support this change, and perhaps Langford and View Royal. While it might seem unreasonable that Victoria taxpayers should pay the costs of parts of the system that carry no Victoria sewage and have been designed by a committee that has no Victoria representation (the Westside committee), based on past experience we should not discount the possibility the CRD board may move in this direction.

Another issue is the size of the amenity contribution the CRD would make to the host community and the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood. Given the much higher costs of the new proposals there may be a temptation to reduce this. I do not recall any discussion so far about Victoria's request for recognition of our lost tax revenue.

Finally the application of the promised federal and provincial grants has been raised as an issue if a multiple plant system is chosen.

For all these reasons I think it is important that our CRD representatives (which I think includes all of council as directors or alternates) should be fully informed of the ramifications for our residents of the various options under consideration. Analysis of the impact of changes to the plan and changes to the current policy about cost allocation options is not simple and I think our staff should be asked to provide us with briefings on this.

As we saw, although it had designated and zoned a site for treatment, Esquimalt's requirement for a relatively tiny variances gave it enormous bargaining power (even though the plant was subsequently redesigned in a way that would conform without variances). In the event the CRD board considers making a decision that results in a plant being built in Victoria and ALSO results in Victoria taxpayers paying a large share of plants from which we do not benefit, we can expect that affected citizens will express opposition to our taking any action that would facilitate such a plant at the public hearing we have committed to hold, absent significant benefits to the neighbourhood and the City. I believe we should request:

**Motion:**

That staff provide information to Council about:

1. What Council's authority will be in terms of imposing design and amenity conditions on potential sewage treatment sites within the City of Victoria;

2. Whether any steps in terms of zoning or design specification can be taken to give Council more authority over these issues;
3. The legal requirements for changing cost and grant allocation for the wastewater treatment program.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Young', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Councillor Geoff Young