

# Sewer Planning and Groundwater

## Assessment for Tunneling InfoSheet

### Protecting groundwater and wells

As part of a technical assessment for regional sewer system improvements in the Comox Valley, the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) is undertaking geotechnical investigatory work and hydrogeological data assessment in the Lazo Road and Comox Hill areas. The results of this work will provide information about ground conditions and groundwater levels to help determine viable options for relocating the ageing sewer pipe at Balmoral Beach (Willemar Bluffs), which is at a high risk of failure.

### The planning process

The CVRD is in the process of developing a Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) for the Comox Valley Sewer Service, which currently services Courtenay, Comox and K'ómoks First Nation. A high-priority concern is the need to relocate the ageing sewer pipe on Balmoral Beach that is vulnerable to damage by waves, rocks, and logs and creates an environmental risk for our beaches and waters.

Three options for conveyance (pipes and pump stations that move wastewater to the treatment plant on Brent Road) have been shortlisted. Two of those options include tunneling through Comox Hill and Lazo Road hill. All three options are undergoing further technical assessment.

### Protecting groundwater

The CVRD recognizes that the protection of groundwater is of critical importance, in particular for residents around Lazo Road who rely on wells for their drinking water supply. Before moving forward with any option it is important we confirm that the project won't impact these sources.

- **External Experts:** The project team is working closely with local contractor GW Solutions to understand the aquifer in the area and highlight any possible challenges, and with WSP engineering to develop a design that will protect groundwater.
- **Investigations:** WSP is also undertaking geotechnical investigations with a first phase of exploratory boreholes drilled in June 2020 and a second phase in August 2020. As part of these phases, piezometers have been installed to monitor groundwater levels.

The information collected from onsite assessment and external experts will inform the project team of ground conditions and water locations, allowing for a plan to be developed that protects existing resources.

### Questions? Please get in touch:

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Drilling equipment like this will be used to assess geotechnical conditions and groundwater in the area

### COMING UP NEXT

A public engagement period will be open in September to collect feedback on the conveyance options that are currently being considered. All CVRD residents are invited to provide their feedback and comments at [www.connectcvr.ca/lwmp](http://www.connectcvr.ca/lwmp)

The CVRD will also continue to communicate with homeowners about the outcomes of this investigatory work. Once data from this work is analyzed, any reports regarding ground conditions and groundwater will be made available to the public.



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