



PRESS RELEASE – June 8th, 2020

DISTRICT SEEKS ELECTOR RESPONSE for Wastewater Upgrades Cell#1 LOAN AUTHORIZATION BYLAW

In 2018 the District submitted an application for the Investing In Canada grant program to fund the much-needed upgrades to the wastewater treatment facilities (Cell#1) for the District of Clearwater. The District was successful in garnering a grant in the amount of \$1,810,000 shared by the Federal and Provincial Clean Water & Wastewater grant program.

Why upgrade the wastewater treatment facilities?

In recent years, during peak summer flow conditions, the District has had challenges achieving the wastewater treatment requirements outlined in the District's Ministry of Environment operating permit. This is happening because the flow and concentration of wastewater being treated by the District's wastewater treatment plant occasionally exceed the treatment capacity of the plant. Upon completion of the subject project, the District's wastewater treatment plant capacity will be increased to treat current and future (± 20 year) flows.

Key objectives of this project are to:

- Provide the residents of Clearwater with a long term reliable and sewer system fully complying with the Ministry of Environment's standards,
- Reduce build-up of non-organic material in the treatment lagoons by screening incoming flows.
- Upgrade the sewer system treatment infrastructure which is necessary to support economic growth within the community,

There are two options to funding this project – 1) borrowing the District's portion through the Municipal Finance Association over a 15-year period or 2) borrow from the District's general surplus.

The Council is proposing to adopt "Wastewater Upgrade treatment facility Cell#1 Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 235, 2020" to cover the estimated cost for the District's portion of constructing sewer infrastructure upgrades. The purpose of this bylaw is to cover the District's portion of the Wastewater upgrades Cell#1 project. The total costs of the project is \$2,470,000, grant funding received is \$1,810,000, other funds contributed are Development Cost Charges of \$73,749, Septage Receiving Reserves of \$25,000 and the remaining amount of \$560,000 is proposed to be borrowed over a 15-year period.

The cost to property owners within the sewer service area for a 15-year loan including interest is \$640,294, with annual payments allocated to the septage receiving fund and sewer system users equal to approximately \$114.50 annual increase to user fees based on connection ie: motel, residential, etc.