



# Citizens Coalition On Sewage Treatment (CCO\$T)

*Seven arguments against a very flawed sewage plan*

## **What is CCO\$T?**

We are a **loose coalition** of groups and individuals trying to stop the CRD's ill-advised sewage plan. **We are in favour of sewage treatment**, but believe that it must be done **responsibly** with regard to **cost, public health**, and the local and global **environment**. This plan does not do that.

## **Join us in this fight!**

We presently host two **email lists** and a number of web sites. You can join the email lists from our [web site](#).

## **Take part in the ongoing discussion**

Planning this project has mostly taken place **without much public oversight**. It's time this important issue was **brought out into the open**. Registering on our community web site [ccost.ca](http://ccost.ca) lets you become part of our **online Web Forums**, and also have your own **Blog** if you wish to express your individual views.

## **Associated groups**

Please also consider joining one or more of our existing participating groups:

- **ARESST/RSTV**  
<http://aresst.ca>
- **Citizens Coalition On Sewage Treatment (CCO\$T)**

<http://ccost.ca/>

Read the latest news reports and join the email lists

## **The CRD's sewage plan is incredibly expensive**

The largest and most expensive sewage plan ever proposed in Canada, its estimated capital cost of at least a billion dollars will add an additional tax burden of \$450–\$1250 (depending on the final cost) each year for every ratepayer in the region, for the entire 40-year planned lifetime of the project. This will impact everyone, as home and apartment owners will pass these costs on to renters, and no money will be available for low-income housing and other useful social services and the arts.

## **The plan doesn't solve existing sewage problems**

With its focus on adding expensive, polluting, and energy-intensive biosolid plants to the system, the CRD's plan doesn't deal with removing toxics from the sewage stream by increasing public education or by increased monitoring, and it doesn't solve the storm runoff problems that have resulted in raw sewage being washed up on our beaches. It is a poorly-conceived, "end-of-the-pipe" solution.

## **It would create serious new environmental damage**

Instead of ocean discharge—not ideal but not scientifically proven to be harmful—the plan would use the atmosphere as a dumping ground. Transporting and burning sewage sludge in cement kilns and waste incinerators in the Lower Mainland will impact Vancouver's already poor air quality and increase greenhouse gas emissions. The environmental benefits of this plan have not been evaluated. It will negatively impact the environment and destroy public green space.

## **It does nothing to improve the marine environment**

The Minister of Environment claims that ocean disposal is destroying the marine environment, and many leading BC marine environmental groups have supported his claim without examining it in detail. But many marine scientists and public health officials disagree. This claim has not been proven scientifically. The CRD plan may not improve the marine environment, but it will certainly affect people's health and increase global warming. It would still allow ocean discharge of waste water.

## **Public process has been restricted and inadequate**

Public input has been controlled and ignored throughout the process. People should have been involved at all stages, but this did not happen. Detailed recommendations from a hand-picked Technical and Community Advisory Committee were brushed aside, and apart from accepting input on whether the project should be publicly or privately owned, the public has not been given adequate opportunity to comment on the wisdom of the plan's basic architecture or any of its details.

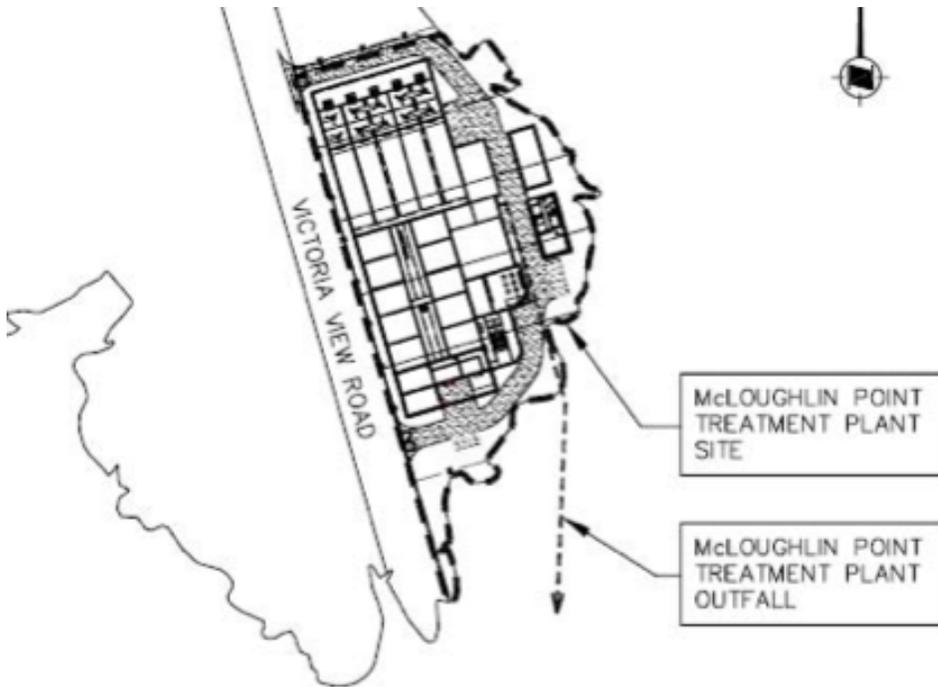
## **Markets for the biosolid wastes have not been secured**

Buyers for the biosolid wastes and even a site for the central sludge plant in Victoria Harbour have not been secured. Biosolid wastes are not safe for use on forest or agricultural land, so the CRD will have to transport this toxic, smelly product by truck or pipeline to the Hartland landfill and build an expensive incinerator, adding to the project's already enormous cost.

## **The push to privatise services is driving the process**

Looking for a way to privatise municipal services, the BC government has used public concern about sewage as an excuse to mandate on-land tertiary sewage treatment. The government ordered the CRD to present a Business Case for private ownership, then avoided an environmental assessment by placing the project under the Environmental Land Management Act (ELM) without ever justifying the environmental need or benefits of the project or its social impacts.

# McLoughlin Point is small and inappropriate



"If this was Australia, we would build an opera house on that site because it's worthy of that. Instead, we're trying to build the Mother Of All Outhouses."

– Councillor Graham Hill

## McLOUGHLIN POINT IS A BAD LOCATION

The McLoughlin Point site could **still be too small** for CRD's sewage needs, and many people believe that its **position at the marine gateway to Victoria** is **inappropriate** for a city that markets itself as **an attractive tourist destination**.

Its **exposed shoreline location** raises the possibility of it being **overwhelmed by tsunami waves** caused by an **earthquake anywhere in the Pacific**, as well as severe **storm surges** and **rising sea levels** caused by **global warming**. It is a **bad location** for a sewage plant.

## THIS IS A BAD SEWAGE PLAN

The CRD's Sewage Plan is the **largest and most expensive sewage project** yet proposed in Canada. It will have **no measurable positive effect on the ocean**, but will **add to provincial and global carbon emissions**. It will **create only 29 permanent jobs**, and its **staggering cost** will result in **cutbacks to health, social services, and education**.

**Many municipal politicians believe that this is a bad plan.** But they **feel powerless**, claiming they have been **forced to do it** by the **provincial government**. Only Esquimalt Mayor and Council have **stood up and said "NO! – This is a Bad Plan."** Opposing it will require **massive support from Esquimalt residents** to succeed.

## THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN MISLED

A **provincial government report** *Resources from Waste* painted a **glorious picture** where **resource recovery** would go a long way to **paying for the costs** of the plan. Now, it turns out that **resource recovery will add to the costs**, not reduce them.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP THIS BAD PLAN

- Support your Mayor and Council. Massive support from Esquimalt residents will give them the political clout to stop this irresponsible plan. Ask your councillors how you can support them in their fight against this plan.
- Attend the Public Meeting on Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup> 2010, 7pm to 9pm in Esquimalt council chambers. Make your views about the sewage plan and McLoughlin Point known... loud and clear. The consequences could haunt Esquimalt for generations.
- Write letters to the newspapers, to the Minister of Environment, Barry Penner, and to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development.

### Inadequate public involvement

The CRD **cannot claim** to have been **transparent** during its four-year planning process.

A required **community committee** was merged into a **technical advisory group**, and additional public input was **severely constrained**.

**Misleading information** was given out far too often, and **other information** was withheld or **buried in reports**.

Public input was **controlled and managed** by only allowing discussion of **pre-determined topics**, such as privatisation (*P3s*).

### It's time to stop this ill-advised plan

The proposed **Liquid Waste Plan** would commit us all to a **costly project that will do nothing to solve the sewage problem**. It will **damage people's health and not protect the environment**.

- **Find out what this sewage plan means**
- **Tell your municipal Councillors about it**
- **Write to you MP and MLA about it**