

ERWS Drinking Water Project Update

At this time, the Englishman River Water Service project is about 50% complete in the construction phase and is on time and within identified budgets.

The ERWS is a joint venture between the City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo formed in 2011 to secure bulk water supply from the Englishman River for the residents of Parksville and the Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area. Construction of the ERWS project which started in April 2017 includes:

- An in-river water supply intake designed and located to consider the needs of river users and protect aquatic habitat.
- Water treatment plant with a minimum of 16 million litres per day of membrane filtration capacity to comply with new water regulatory treatment standards including UV light and chlorine disinfection.
- Transmission supply mains to the Top Bridge and Springwood reservoirs and the Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area.

Further project benefits include flood protection, additional fire hydrants installed for urban interface fire protection, additional pipe capacity storage and a multi-purpose trail/access through Top Bridge Park.

To date, project contractors have completed the following:

- Transmission main to Top Bridge Park
- Englishman River watermain crossing
- Shelly Creek watermain crossing
- Alberni Highway watermain crossing
- Water intake
- Foundations installed for the water treatment plant and pump station

A number of factors have affected the supply and cost of materials; however, the extra costs are within the contingency amount and it is expected there will be no impact on the 2018 budget. The total cost of this project is anticipated to be \$34.5 million with just over \$12 million provided by the province and federal governments through the New Building Canada Fund: Small Communities Fund and the Clean Water Wastewater Fund.

Effective January 22, AWS/ERWS program manager, Mike Squire, will take on a new position with the Regional District of Nanaimo. The project is now the responsibility of the City's engineering department working closely with the AWS/ERWS management board to identify and appoint a new program manager.

On behalf of Parksville Council, Mayor Marc Lefebvre said, "We wish Mike Squire the very best in his new position with the Regional District of Nanaimo. I wish to sincerely thank Mike for his significant contribution to this project, so vital for Parksville's future." He also said, "Mike has been with the City of Parksville for fourteen years and for many years, successfully championed this project on behalf of the City."

Once this significant community project is complete, the community's water system will ensure high-quality, safe water which will exceed Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines and the project will be sized to handle water demands for future generations.

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For more information:

Vaughn Figueira, Director of Engineering and Operations
250 951-2484

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications
250 954-3073