

## Arrowsmith Water Service

The Arrowsmith Water Service commissioned a major engineering study to review the current and future water demands, to look at storage and supply alternatives and associated capital requirements for the Arrowsmith joint venture water supply to the three partners - Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo. This report will be presented to the AWS board for their approval on April 26.

The report outlines the need for a new water intake and treatment facility by the end of 2016 for the City of Parksville and AWS Bulk Water Service Areas within the Regional District of Nanaimo along with a proposed schedule of activities required to be undertaken which for 2011 includes the following:

- Continuation of conceptual level planning
- Refinement of the AWS governance model
- Discussion with Ministry of Environment and Department of Fisheries
- Exploration of senior government funding
- Development of a financial rate structure model
- Acquisition of required properties and easements
- Permit applications
- Raw water characterization and bench scale treatment process testing
- Begin process pilot testing
- First phase of aquifer storage and recovery feasibility analysis
- Finalization of communications strategy that includes public open houses

The City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo have the immediate need for the bulk water required to supplement existing supply sources and are not prepared to further delay the process. To delay until November as some members of the Qualicum Beach Council are suggesting, would put the program further behind, perhaps by more than a year.

Joe Stanhope, RDN Chair stated that, "Such a delay may be acceptable to the Town of Qualicum Beach given that the engineering report indicates that the Town will likely not need to supplement their water supply from AWS for a further 30 to 40 years however, such a delay is not acceptable to the City of Parksville nor Regional District of Nanaimo."

"The priority for the City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo is to complete the new governance model as soon as possible to allow work to begin immediately on the items outlined in the engineering report as being a priority for 2011," said City of Parksville Acting Mayor Chris Burger.

The AWS board will meet on Tuesday, April 26 at 9 am at the Parksville Community & Conference Centre (Garry Oaks/Arbutus). The public is welcome to attend this meeting.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Fred Manson, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Parksville 250 954-4666  
Carol Mason, Chief Administrative Officer, Regional District of Nanaimo 250 390-4111