

Englishman River Water Service Engages Consultants CH2M HILL

The Englishman River Water Service (ERWS) has engaged CH2M HILL Canada Limited – along with subconsultants Kerr Wood Leidal Associates, Golder Associates, and DIALOG Architects – to provide engineering services for the design of a new water intake, treatment plant and supply mains. The project includes developing an innovative Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) system to supplement the existing water supply.

CH2M HILL is working closely with the ERWS, City of Parksville, and Regional District of Nanaimo to develop a project consultation and communications plan to ensure the community is fully informed as to the project's progress. The first step in consultation is recruitment of a Community Working Group (CWG). Several representative community organizations, including the Nanoose First Nation have been invited to participate in the CWG. The role of the CWG members will be to provide early inputs to the project team on items of concern, and options and issues to be addressed during the process of design development. In addition to the Community Work Group, ERWS will engage the public through the PlaceSpeak online consultation platform (www.placespeak.com/englishmanriver), and a public open house is planned for spring 2014.

"It is important to engage the community in decision-making at key stages in the project," said Parksville Mayor Chris Burger. "This is an essential project and community engagement is an important part of the project development process to enable public understanding, input and support."

The Englishman River Water Service is a joint venture between the City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo for the provision of bulk water to the City and member areas of the Regional District in an environmentally sensitive manner protecting fish habitat and potable water supply. To successfully accomplish this mission requires careful stewardship of both the surface water and groundwater sources upon which ERWS depends. ERWS is therefore developing a project to sustain a healthy river system and meet the future water needs of the City and the RDN. Project components include:

- River water supply intake located and designed to protect aquatic habitat.
- Water treatment plant and distribution system to meet Island Health's drinking water quality standards.
- New aquifer storage and recovery system to enable seasonal water supply and demand to be balanced, and river water extraction to be reduced, through use of a storage aquifer.
- Phased design and construction to meet local needs and to achieve affordability.

Further background is available at http://www.englishmanriverwaterservice.ca/future_plans.asp.

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