



Late Item (ii) B)

Ref: 251914

February 12, 2020

Courtney Kirk, Chief Administrative Officer
Central Coast Regional District
Email: cao@ccrd-bc.ca

Dear Ms. Kirk:

I understand from conversations that Ministry staff have had with members of the community that there seems to be some confusion in regard to the Ministry's support for the Hagensborg Improvement District (HID) conversion. As you are aware, the Province supports improvement district conversions to regional district services where there is evidence of support from the improvement district trustees, the regional district board, and the landowners.

I would like to offer you some assurance that the Ministry supports the efforts to address the capital needs of the Hagensborg water system, appreciates the willingness of the Central Coast Regional District (CCRD) to explore conversion (through its application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Environmental Quality Fund), and sees the opportunities for the Bella Coola valley that arise from integrating local and regional decisions about water service, land use planning, and emergency response through a conversion of the HID services.

The award of a \$3,785,294 Green Infrastructure-Environmental Quality Grant, contingent on a conversion to a Regional District service administered by the CCRD, should be taken as evidence of the Ministry commitment to this initiative.

It is my understanding that the HID Board of Trustees indicated their support for a conversion in a resolution and secured the assent of the HID landowners in a vote on December 3, 2019, after a special meeting to receive information about the proposed conversion and discuss landowner concerns.

The CCRD Board has a significant opportunity to assist in facilitating the next generation of water infrastructure in Hagensborg through the conversion of the HID into a regional district service. Should the CCRD Board adopt a resolution accepting the grant and requesting assistance in moving forward with the conversion, the Ministry would view this as sufficient to bring the conversion decision before Government.

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Ministry staff remain available to provide support and guidance on the conversion process and the creation of regional district services if this would be of assistance to the CCRD. Should the CCRD require assistance in planning for the service transition, the CCRD may apply for a local government restructure grant to provide clarity on the service benefits in the longer term and financial implications in the shorter term of the conversion. Scott Leitch, Senior Planning Analyst, can be reached by telephone at: 778-698-1167 or by email: scott.leitch@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marijke Edmondson', written in a cursive style.

Marijke Edmondson
A/Executive Director, Governance and Structure Branch
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing