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Dear Property Owner:

RE: \$1,999,530 grant announced today for Bralorne Wastewater Collection System Upgrade and Secondary Treatment project

We are pleased to advise that the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District was successful in its grant application for funding to replace the existing Bralorne sewer system!

We secured a grant of \$1,999,530.000 from the Federal Gas Tax Agreement - Strategic Priorities Fund - a program administered by the Union of BC Municipalities. The fund was created to support infrastructure and capacity building projects of a large scale or regional impact.

Previously staff applied for grant funding in 2002 (entire system upgrade) and in 2012 (collection system only) but were unsuccessful. However, perseverance paid off and the SLRD is one of 57 communities out of 222 applications from across Canada to be granted support from the fund for 2016.

Given the age and condition of the current system, we are thrilled to have secured this funding, and to be embarking on a complete replacement of Bralorne's Wastewater system.

As we have just been informed of the funding, this letter is to provide you with a preliminary outline of what to expect. We will provide more detailed information about the impacts as the project gets underway.

Feel free to contact our office if you have any questions,

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What does the grant fund?

The Bralorne Wastewater Collection System Upgrade and Secondary Treatment project will provide sewer servicing to all of the properties in Townsite 1 and Townsite 2 that are currently in the service area. The priority is to replace the existing sanitary system infrastructure. There is no intention at this point to expand the system to service properties outside the service area, (ie that are not currently connected to Bralorne's sewerage collection system.)

Existing manholes and the current system's septic tanks will be decommissioned. New infrastructure, including an innovative secondary treatment system with a new outfall into Cadwallader Creek will be installed. Also included in the budget is the tie-in of existing residential services into the new system that will be aligned within the road right-of-way.

What is the time frame?

Project design, routing, and contract tendering will occur this year, with plant construction scheduled for 2017 and mainline construction, service reconstruction and the decommissioning of old infrastructure planned for 2018.

The new system, expected to be fully operational by the fall of 2018, will feature an innovative, low maintenance treatment process with the potential to exceed current effluent quality regulations far beyond the capabilities of the current septic system.

How much will this cost me?

The grant will cover the full cost of the project as it was estimated in the application.

A contingency was added to the budget to accommodate unknown and/or fluctuating costs. However, it is possible that unpredictable events such as wildfires and debris flows could impact the budget should there be lengthy time periods where equipment and crews are on site but unable to operate. In these cases, or in cases where the best guesses in the grant writing stage were underfunded, any funding shortfalls would have to be paid for out of the Bralorne Sewer Operating Budget. Staff would exhaust all other funding sources in advance of that. In the event that the funding is significantly short of the actual construction costs, the SLRD would request permission from the Community to borrow funds on behalf of the service, the cost of which would be recovered over time through the yearly operating budget.

Should the grant funding adequately cover all of the engineering and construction costs for this project, as hoped, the operating commitments are not expected to exceed current operating costs. The chosen technology does not require energy inputs to process the wastewater, and the proposed filters have a long lifespan.

Currently, each parcel contributes \$268.49 as an annual tax requisition, for the Bralorne wastewater system and that will be adequate to cover operations for the new system. However, everything has a lifespan and the SLRD is committed to never having Bralorne in a position to depend on grants in the future. As such, a capital reserve fund will be established, and will be based on the projected replacement costs of the infrastructure over time. This additional yearly contribution will be determined following completion of this project.

How can I stay up to date, or find out when the RFP is up?

Please visit the Bralorne Sewer Upgrade Project Page on the SLRD website (www.slrd.bc.ca/bralornesewer) for updates. You can subscribe to an RSS feed for the page, to be alerted when new updates are made.