

## Water Treatment and Intake Facility - Assent Voting Opportunity

At the meeting on August 17, City of Parksville Council approved the following:

- To proceed with the ERWS Loan Authorization Bylaw which authorizes the City to borrow up to \$5.6 million to build the ERWS new river intake, water treatment plant and transmission lines.
- November 21, 2015, as the date for an assent voting opportunity.
- Wording for the assent voting question.

For the citizens of Parksville, an assent voting opportunity (previously referred to as a referendum) will be held on November 21. The *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter* requires the assent of electors to adopt a loan authorization bylaw to borrow for construction of the water intake and treatment plant. The legislation also requires the process be conducted in the same manner as an election.

The citizens of Parksville will be asked to vote on the assent voting question:

*Do you agree to the adoption of City of Parksville Loan Authorization Bylaw, 2015, No. 1519 which will authorize the City of Parksville to borrow \$5.6 million to construct a water intake and treatment facility in accordance with Island Health requirements.*

The ERWS project includes:

- In-river water supply intake which will withdraw water from the Englishman River; designed and located to consider the needs of river users and to protect aquatic habitat.
- New water treatment plant to meet Island Health's drinking water quality standards.
- Transmission supply mains to homes and businesses.

In 2009, the new water regulatory treatment standard imposed by Island Health Authority accelerated planning and the new intake and water treatment will now be constructed at the same time. To comply with the water system operating permit changes, the Englishman River Water Service must provide full water treatment. The ERWS currently supplies water to 18,000 individuals in Parksville and the Nanoose Bay Peninsula, as well as a seasonal influx of tourist population of 10,500.

In anticipation of a positive borrowing referendum, the ERWS is proceeding with detailed design of all components of Phase 1, with a minimum of 16 million litres per day of firm membrane filtration capacity using existing reserve funds and the \$6 million funding received from the federal and provincial governments.

Over the next few weeks, the City of Parksville will provide detailed information about the water intake and treatment facility project. In the meantime, please refer to [www.englishmanriverwaterservice.ca](http://www.englishmanriverwaterservice.ca)

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**For more information:**

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