



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

CVRD ALLOCATES GAS TAX FUNDS

At its May 9, 2012 meeting, the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board allocated more than \$2,000,000 in Federal Gas Tax grants to 18 projects located throughout the Cowichan Region. Gas Tax funds received from the Federal government through a partnership with the Province of British Columbia and the Union of BC Municipalities assist local governments in funding important local projects.

“This funding allows us to undertake important infrastructure works and projects that would otherwise take much longer and come at a much higher cost to local tax payers,” said CVRD Board Chair Rob Hutchins. “While the demand and need for project and infrastructure funding far exceeds the money available, the Board is thrilled that the Gas Tax funding will allow us to move forward with needed works for the benefit of local taxpayers,” Hutchins added.

A backgrounder follows.

For further information, please contact:

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BACKGROUNDER

The CVRD Board selected the following 18 projects for gas tax funding.

1. Kerry Park Recreation Center (KPRC) Wastewater Upgrades - \$236,000

The current discharge of effluent from the recreation facility exceeds what is allowable in the existing permit and does not meet the Class A treatment standard as required in the SSLWMP. Connection to the Kerry Village facility will correct both these issues.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$325,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$236,000

2. Douglas/Moth Water Treatment Building/Well Protection and Metering- \$265,000

Upgrade the water treatment facility, develop a well protection plan and install metered services to the remaining portion of the development that do not currently have meters.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$465,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$265,000

3. Honeymoon Bay Water System Well Development and Sutton Creek Water Main Extension - \$107,000

Develop a back up source well for the distribution system and extend the water main across the Sutton Creek Bridge to provide adequate flows to the West end of Honeymoon Bay.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$150,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$107,000

4. Tier II Flood Infrastructure Funding - \$324,000

Funding to underwrite the CVRD electoral area portion of the necessary 1/3 contribution to the federal provincial flood program and dike infrastructure. The total 1/3 local government and First Nation cost is \$2,616,000.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$8,698,750
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$324,000

5. Youbou, Honeymoon Bay, Mesachie and Lake Cowichan Community Halls Heating Upgrades - \$160,000

Convert 3 oil fired boilers at Youbou, 2 oil furnaces at Honeymoon Bay Hall, 1 oil furnace at Mesachie Hall and 2 oil furnaces at Lake Cowichan Hall with electric furnaces or heat pumps. The conversions will require improved electric sources and storage locations.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$250,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$160,000



6. Shawnigan Reservoir Solar Mixer - \$37,000

Without power and a dedicated supply line to the reservoir, it is very difficult to keep water from becoming stagnant in the reservoir. Installation of a solar mixer will help alleviate the dead water storage in the reservoir and improve water quality.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$50,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$37,000

7. Saltair Water Main Upgrades - \$145,000

Significant water main upgrades are required due to pipe failures, inadequate fire flows and inconsistent pressure throughout the system.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$200,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$145,000

8. Carlton Water System Upgrades - \$260,000

Proposed acquisition of this water system requires upgrades to the reservoir, water treatment facility and water mains.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$400,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$260,000

9. Woodley Range Water System Upgrades - \$260,000

Proposed acquisition of this water system requires improvements to the wells, upgrades to the reservoir and water treatment facility.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$400,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$260,000

10. KPRC Well Drilling - \$30,000

The Kerry Park Recreation Centre has a limited capacity of water in their existing well. In order to accommodate any future expansion, an additional source of water will be required.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$50,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$30,000

11. Maple Hills Bio-Filter - \$17,000

Construction of a Bio-Filter at the Maples Hills WWTP will help greatly reduce the nuisance odors omitting from the facility.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$25,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$17,000



12. Youbou Hall Boiler Shed Asbestos Abatement - \$22,000

The shed is unusable and is a hazard to air quality and environment and is the last asbestos abatement project on Cowichan Lake's 5 year plan.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$35,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$22,500

13. Cowichan Station School Energy Upgrades - \$125,000

It is proposed to upgrade the oil based heating system in both school buildings on site to a ground based loop, heat pump system, and upgrading of single pane windows. The first priority is the heat pump infrastructure with the complimentary window upgrade to follow as funds and other leverage allow. This NGO partnership is funded by a Heritage Canada grant for the 1/3 component.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$200,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$125,000
Local Area Association Contribution:	\$75,000

14. Cobble Hill Wastewater and Effluent Re-Use - \$215,000

Treated effluent will provide for summer irrigation of public, community and farm lands from the Twin Cedars sewage system.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$765,000
Towns for Tomorrow Grant:	\$400,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$215,000

15. Shellwood Water System Upgrades - \$260,000

Proposed acquisition of this water system requires the construction of a reservoir and upgrades to the water treatment facility.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$400,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$260,000

16. Environmental Controls and Monitoring Equipment for Waste Water Treatment Plant – \$27,000

To provide continuous environmental monitoring of effluent into the receiving environment and provide data logging to ensure permit compliance. (Lambourn, Twin Cedars, Sentinel Ridge and Arbutus Mountain).

Estimated Project Cost:	40,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$27,000



17. Honeymoon Bay Hall – Rainwater Containment and Dispersal - \$63,000

There is no perimeter drain or reservoir in place and rainwater causes ground water problems during the winter including, at times, the hall basement encounters flooding conditions. The upgrade could include paving the front and side parking/roadway, and installing rain gardens. Suggest partnering the CVRD cost portion with Parks and Lake Cowichan Recreation function. Year 2013-14.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$100,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$63,000

18. Cowichan Lake Sports Arena - Wastewater Circulating Loop System - \$30,000

By recycling the refrigeration waste heat cooling water, it would lower water consumption and decrease operating time and load on the arena well pump. Uncontaminated water currently discharged into the storm drain would be recycled.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$50,000
Gas Tax Contribution:	\$30,000