



What We Heard: Water & Waste Community Discussion

Area C OCP Project | February 18th 2026 @ Quadra Island Community Centre

The Strathcona Regional District would like to thank the 35 (approximate) community members who attended the discussion on water and waste. Your many thoughtful comments have been consolidated.

Planning staff opened this session with a short overview of the OCP review project so far, the guiding principles we've heard so far on water and waste, and defined some key terms. Engineering staff also presented a high level overview of three water and waste related projects that have already been completed on Quadra Island.

This session also featured a series of poster boards to show the various ways in which water can be supplied to a property, and the various public health laws and government agencies involved in servicing of water and waste.

Planning staff opened the floor to the community to start the conversation. The following are notes taken by staff while listening to the community discussion.

Notes from Discussion:

This list is a short-hand transcription of comments made, as captured by the note-taker during the session. Though not a verbatim account, staff have tried to use the terms that were spoken and to capture the intent of statements made. These comments will be organized and refined into policy statements for further discussion, especially on matters where the community is divided.

- Determine options for small water systems. Small water systems are generally supported.
- Residents believe the capital cost and ongoing operational costs of a community water system in Quathiaski Cove are unattainable.
- Need to determine what kinds of water and waste improvements are required to densify
- Cove residents are more interested in sewer upgrades than water exploration
- Ground water is finite, we need to determine the capacity for Quadra Island
- How does logging on the island impact the watershed?
- All water systems (big and small) require Island Health approvals
- Concerns over costs for small water systems as opposed to individual wells
- Need a public water filling station where residents can fill up small containers for drinking water
- Quadra water security team studying water limits for the whole island. Study will take 5+ years to collect data. Grant funded and supported by We Wai Kai.
- Water and sewer in the cove would support ease of developing new units and could positively impact affordability

- Exploring development cost charges and amenity cost charges may be supported
- Other factors influencing settlement on quadra; better ferry service, improved roads, more doctors, etc.
- Private, shared sewer systems are expensive and require maintenance (as do public systems)
- Density does not necessarily mean extreme population growth – but dense village centres support livability especially for seniors
- How can we think outside of the box on water supply? (Heat pump water box, desalination)
- How do we best manage surface water for the community? Advocate to MOTT
- Explore recycling grey water
- Development Permits to review water feasibility (not to add layers of approvals) may be supported
- Explore scaled up water collection (rain catchment)
- Need to better accommodate natural drainage (not just ditching)
- Maintain greenbelts for natural drainage