

News Release

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November 5, 2019

Comprehensive monitoring of Cobble Hill wells to begin in 2020

Duncan, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) will fund sampling and reporting of its four groundwater monitoring wells in the Fisher Road area of Cobble Hill.

On October 23, 2019 the CVRD Board of Directors approved funding of this initiative, following communication from the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) indicating it was not committing funding to additional water quality projects at this time.

“Residents of our communities have come to expect access to safe drinking water,” said Ian Morrison, Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. “The Board sees this as a priority and is supporting this work to begin in the near future.”

The CVRD is planning to do a comprehensive suite of sampling parameters for the four CVRD wells in 2020 and in 2021. The sample results will be uploaded to the ENV Environmental Monitoring Systems database. In 2022, the CVRD plans to have a hydrogeological study completed that will analyse the groundwater quality data.

“It is good news for residents of Cobble Hill that this comprehensive monitoring is going forward, and that residents will have access to the data so they can see the results for themselves,” said Mike Wilson, Director of Area C – Cobble Hill.

The latest water quality study in this area was by Western Waters Associated Ltd. (WWAL) in 2018 and commissioned by the CVRD in collaboration with Island Health, BC Ministry of Agriculture, ENV and the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, as part of the Cobble Hill Aquifer Interagency Task Group (CHAITG). As part of this study, the CVRD’s four monitoring wells and as a number of private and supply wells were sampled. While the nitrate levels in three of the four of the CVRD monitoring wells exceeded the drinking water quality standard, none of the drinking water wells did. The report concluded that there was no immediate health risk to groundwater users in the area from the known nitrate plumes. The nitrate in this area is believed to have come from past land use practices at two composting facilities and one former greenhouse operation.

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