

RDN and Town of Qualicum Beach agreement brings new water supply to Sandpiper residents

Residents in the Sandpiper subdivision will soon receive a new water supply after an agreement was signed between the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and the Town of Qualicum Beach.

The Sandpiper community, established in 1980, currently accesses their household water supply from a series of groundwater wells, leading residents to manage individual water treatment systems at their own expense. Although the water is deemed potable by Island Health, the water is not aesthetically pleasing. This new agreement will bring a bulk water supply from the Town of Qualicum Beach to the Sandpiper reservoir that consistently meets Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines, which were last updated in 2019. The water needs of 242 households will be met while still ensuring the community has a sufficient water source for emergencies.

The RDN has allocated \$970,000 from the Electoral Area G Community Works Funds towards this project. The funds will cover the capital costs to bring water to the reservoir, while allowing for infrastructure improvements and reinforcing the emergency water supply for the Chartwell and Eaglecrest communities. To enable Qualicum Beach to provide the water service, the RDN will continue to operate and maintain the Sandpiper reservoir and RDN pumphouse. Once the water connection is in place, an extensive flush of the entire system will be completed before water is distributed to households.

The Town of Qualicum Beach's water system is more than capable of supplying water to the Sandpiper subdivision, while still maintaining an abundance of supply for the Town's growing population for years to come. In fact, data shows that water consumption continues to decrease, likely because of energy efficient appliances and water conservation measures. The Town also holds two wells that have yet to be commissioned as a contingency water supply.

Construction on this project is expected to start immediately with water supply being provided to Sandpiper by early fall.

For more details on the project visit qualicumbeach.com/sandpiper

Quotes

“The Board values our working relationships with RDN member municipalities and is pleased to have reached an agreement with the Town of Qualicum Beach to provide residents of the Sandpiper Subdivision with a new water supply.”

Tyler Brown, Chair – Regional District of Nanaimo

“For less than the cost of a bottle of water a day, Sandpiper residents will now have clean, safe water. My sincere gratitude to Mayor Wiese, The Town of Qualicum Beach Council and staff for recognizing the plight of their Area G neighbours and the RDN Board and staff for solving this decades long issue.”

Lehann Wallace, Electoral Area G Director – Regional District of Nanaimo

“All of our challenges in the future will require us to collaborate and cooperate. In coming to our decision on Sandpiper, we seriously considered the potential impacts of climate change on our system and concluded that we have the ability to help. The Town can be a supportive regional partner and this Agreement will fund improvements to our system to make it more capable and resilient.”

Brian Wiese, Mayor – Town of Qualicum Beach

For more information, please contact:

Rebecca Taylor

Communications Coordinator

Regional District of Nanaimo

 250-390-6502

 rtaylor@rdn.bc.ca

Town of Qualicum Beach

 250-752-6921

 qbtown@qualicumbeach.com

Get Involved RDN!