

Waste water plans

By SAM COOPER  
Staff Reporter

Sep 06 2007

**Leaked notes hint at GVRD sewage plant in Norgate.**

It's anyone's guess what will become of the old B.C. Rail site in Norgate after successive plans for a new TransLink bus depot and a Costco have been trashed, but leaked minutes from a GVRD meeting suggest a sewage treatment plant may be in the cards.

After a land sale negotiation between Costco and B.C. Rail was abandoned in April due to disagreement over responsibility for environmental remediation on the site, according to the District of North Vancouver, it appears the GVRD is contemplating purchasing the Norgate site to rebuild the 46-year-old Lions Gate Waste Water Treatment Plant.

According to notes from a May 25 closed GVRD meeting obtained by The Outlook, the province and regional government have agreed to study whether it's feasible to locate a new waste water plant on the B.C. Rail land, and North Shore mayors and the Squamish Nation are being consulted.

Current GVRD plans call for upgrades by 2030 to the Lions Gate sewage treatment plant, which gives primary treatment by filtering most solids but allows some contaminants to flow into the Burrard Inlet, only 500 metres from the Capilano River and its salmon runs. The GVRD already faces a court date

next June in a private prosecution launched by environmental and fishing groups alleging the Lions Gate sewage treatment plant illegally discharges toxic effluent into Burrard Inlet. GVRD spokesperson Bill Morrell said he could not confirm or deny the veracity of the leaked notes suggesting GVRD interest in the B.C. Rail site, but said the regional authority is committed to upgrading the Lions Gate plant to secondary level sewage treatment, which is a biological process that eliminates contaminants.

"The nature of property negotiations between governments is that they are confidential," Morrell said, of his refusal to comment whether the GVRD plans to buy the B.C. Rail land for sewage purposes.

DNV Mayor Richard Walton, who sits on the GVRD board, also said he could not comment on the leaked meeting minutes. "The GVRD has been looking at a number of sites for sewage purposes....to what extent if they are addressing any piece of real estate you'd have to ask them."

Walton said if the GVRD wants to buy the site for sewage treatment District zoning will have to be changed and "it will likely go through a series of public consultations."

One North Shore councillor who asked not to be named, verified the meeting notes regarding the GVRD's interest in the B.C. Rail site obtained by The Outlook are accurate.