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March 10, 2023

File: 5340-03

Mr. Jason Lum
Chair of the Board, Fraser Valley Regional District
1 – 45950 Cheam Avenue
Chilliwack, BC V2P 1N6

Dear Chairman Lum:

Re: Regional Approach to Biosolids Management

Within the Fraser Valley Regional District, there are numerous wastewater treatment plant's operating under a variety of local government jurisdictions including the City of Abbotsford, the City of Chilliwack, the District of Kent, the District of Hope, the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, and FVRD operated plants including Morris Valley, Popkum, and Cultus Lake. As part of the standard operations of these wastewater treatment plants, biosolids are produced as the solid end product.

The BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS) and the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME) strongly encourage local governments to reuse biosolids in a beneficial way that typically utilizes the benefits of the high nutrient value intrinsic to the biosolids produced. Various beneficial use strategies exist for reusing biosolids depending on the quality and characteristics of the biosolids produced. Currently, each municipality within the FVRD, and the FVRD itself, independently manage their own biosolids program.

In British Columbia, biosolids are regulated under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR), providing governance with respect to the construction, production, distribution, storage, sale and use of biosolids (and compost). If biosolids are to be sold as fertilizer or a soil supplement, the biosolids must meet the regulations set by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Due to the complexity of the regulatory environment associated with biosolids reuse, in most cases, local governments hire a specialized consultant with direct expertise and experience in the management of biosolids. All member municipalities of the FVRD, and the FVRD itself, currently operate biosolids management programs utilizing the same consultant, SYLVIS Environmental Services Inc. to haul the product away.

With so many wastewater treatment facilities in operation within the FVRD, each administering and managing independent biosolids management programs using SYLVIS Environmental as the consultant, it is clear that a regional management program would provide economy of scale benefits while tackling a challenging issue that applies to the majority of residents within the FVRD.

Please give consideration to a regional management strategy for Biosolids Management to be administered by the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) with respect to the transportation and removal, setting up a green energy biosolid program, or other beneficial use such as forest, ranchland, and/or agricultural fertilization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pranger", with a large, stylized initial "P" that loops around the name.

Sylvia Pranger
Mayor, District of Kent