

NEWS RELEASE

Date: June 25, 2012 For Immediate Release

Public Meeting Announced

The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) will host a public meeting on the South Islands Aggregates (SIA) Waste Discharge Permit application from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm on Thursday, July 12, 2012 at the Kerry Park arena, the Regional District announced in a news statement today.

"The Board has clearly heard from the community that more opportunities for engagement in the permit application process are necessary," said CVRD chair Rob Hutchins in the statement.

"In general, people feel that they have not been heard and their questions and concerns have not been adequately addressed."

The Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Energy and Mines and SIA have agreed to participate in the public forum, with representatives attending who can answer questions about the application and the process that the Province follows in these applications.

The scheduling of the public meeting came after the CVRD Board backed a recommendation from a special CVRD Sub-Committee on Soils Relocation. The Sub-Committee members, after a recent public information meeting hosted by SIA, decided there was a need to provide an additional opportunity for members of the public to clearly air their views on the permit application.

The CVRD will also be running advertisements in local newspapers to alert the public about this opportunity to air their views and ask questions.

The CVRD will be recording the entire meeting and will collect materials filed by the public at the meeting. Comment forms will also be available for those who would rather express themselves in writing rather than speaking to the meeting.

The CVRD will turn over all of this information to the Ministry of Environment to be used as part of the public input gathered in making a decision on the application.

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