

Attachment A

CITY OF NANAIMO  
THE HARBOUR CITY

# CITY OF NANAIMO

Exploring a Stormwater Utility

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## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM TO SOLVE?

- Existing funding for stormwater infrastructure is drawn from General Taxation – competes with many other City programs
- More intense users of the system don't pay their share
- Asset management – insufficient renewal funding
- Project packaging with other works – concurrent projects
- Risk
- Built form (of City) is getting more urban
- Missed opportunities due to lack of funding
- Climate change – more demand on the system and more risk
- Watercourse quality and environmental considerations

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## INTRODUCTION – STORMWATER UTILITIES

*Stormwater is the rainfall, runoff, and snowmelt that traverses our communities. It requires conveyance and specialized systems to properly manage it.*

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Traditional View: limit personal and property injury.

Now: Integrated stormwater services require comprehensive solutions.


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Path Forward: adequate and equitable cost-recovery is fundamental to sustainable systems.

*What is the **vision for stormwater** management?*

*How does the **funding approach contribute** to achieving the vision?*

*How does forming a utility relate to current or future **service levels**?*



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## WHY CREATE DEDICATED STORMWATER FUNDING?

**#1 - To address Local needs**

- Need for equitable cost-recovery and stable funding e.g. asset renewal
- Solidify a level of service
- Show clear links between land use and cost of service

**#2 - To respond to local values**

- Build program awareness and value for service with customers
- Meet the public interest
- Advance Council's strategic priorities



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## BIG PICTURE GOALS AND NEEDS

Overarching goals for stormwater -- '98 Council Policy

To protect Nanaimo's watercourses, aquatic habitat and ground water resources for their fish, wildlife and greenway values.

To reduce the risk to life and property associated with flooding.

To provide various management methods in achieving a balance among environmental, economic and social objectives.

*Climate change, levels of service, asset management and environmental protection have all advanced the last 23 years, signaling a need to refresh policies like this and others.*

Habitat + Ecology

Risk + Flooding

Balanced Services

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## BIG PICTURE GOALS AND NEEDS

Nanaimo Drainage System and OCP Policy Framework

(REIMAGINE NANAIMO ONGOING)

**OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN**

- ~450,000 meters of linear assets with many other natural and engineering facilities
- Drainage infrastructure represents about 20% of the total value of all linear assets of the City
- Significant renewal expected over the next 30 years
- Natural Assets offer new benefits and services that require investment (recent study, MNAI)
- Multiple policies and bylaws that dictate service levels
- Conditions are dynamic. Good service delivery requires adaptive management



**NATURE**

**Resource protection** incl. climate adaptation.



**DEVELOP**

**Manage development** incl. special measures in sensitive areas.



**INTEGRATED**

**Integrated capital** incl. natural assets & resilience.



**PARTNERS**


**Working with partners** incl. government and NGO.

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## COMMON TECHNICAL & COST-RECOVERY FOCUS AREAS


### #1 – Capital Costs

- Flood control
- Infrastructure renewal & natural assets
- Special climate change projects



### #2 – Operational Costs

- Water quality and species protection
- Drainage operations
- Regular maintenance and programming



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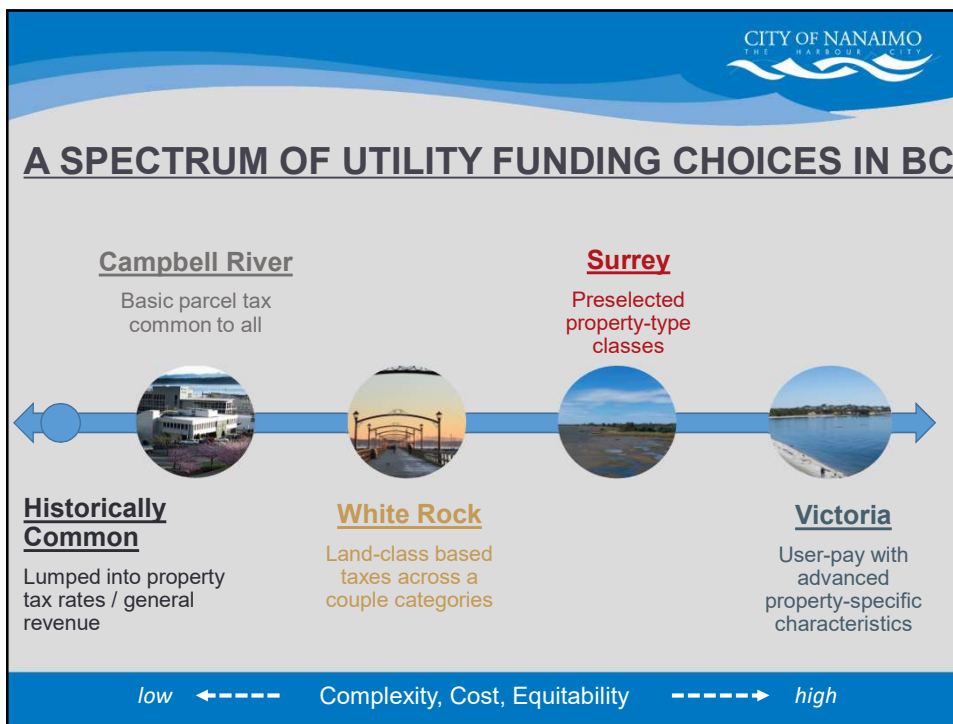
## FEASIBILITY TESTING AND ANALYSIS

### Aspirations to Weigh

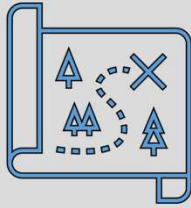
- What is the level of public interest?
- What are the priorities e.g., initial & long-term?
- What are our local goals for a utility?
- How can we leverage partnerships to complement our services?

### Analysis to Undertake

- Medium-term cost projections?
- Land use Impacts?
- Varied or constants service levels?
- Choices/options for levies?
- Organizational adaptation: administration, equitability, and financial sustainability?



## ROADMAP TO BUILD OUT INFORMATION AND CHOICES



- 1. Allocate Funds for additional research: Budget 2022.**  
*Policy, lessons learned, and best practices.*
- 2. Develop strategic goals, objectives and approaches. Spring 2022.**  
*Engagement. Core Principles. Needs. Analysis.*
- 3. Conduct technical and financial analysis. Summer/Fall 2022.**  
*Assessment. Evaluation. Narrow Choices.*
- 4. Report back interim findings to Council. Fall 2022.**  
*Engagement. Direction.*
- 5. Prepare business case with recommendations. 2023.**  
*Decision Making.*