

Q & A Cherry Creek Waterworks District – Potential Conversion

Refresher: For over 60 years, the Cherry Creek Waterworks District (CCWWD) has been providing potable water and fire protection services to the residents of Cherry Creek and a portion of Beaufort. Due to a number of driving factors in recent years – including aging infrastructure, increasing regulations and costs, and inability to access grants – the CCWWD Board of Trustees is exploring the pros and cons of the potential conversion of its services to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD).

Q	What does conversion of the CCWWD to the ACRD mean?
A	Management of our local services would be transferred to the regional district. The current board of trustees would form an advisory committee to assist with future decisions.
Q	Why is the CCWWD investigating conversion?
A	Current challenges have led the CCWWD Board of Trustees to consider a potential governance change, by comparing the status quo to the potential conversion of the CCWWD to the ACRD.
Q	What are the current challenges facing the CCWWD?
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging infrastructure • Increased regulations (e.g. water treatment) • Rising costs (both capital and operational) • Reduced capacity (both staff and elected officials) • Inability to access senior government grants
Q	What will it cost to build the Water Treatment Plant?
A	The CCWWD is required by Island Health to build a Water Treatment Plant that satisfies current drinking water standards, estimated to cost approximately \$5-6 million dollars. The CCWWD currently has approximately \$1 million earmarked for this project. The remaining amount will need to be financed by Cherry Creek residents.
Q	Are grants available to assist with funding the Water Treatment Plant?
A	Improvement Districts are not eligible to receive senior government grants. If the CCWWD converts to the ACRD, the services would be eligible to receive senior government grants, although it is not guaranteed.
Q	What happens to reserves, operating funds, and assets held by the CCWWD?
A	Upon conversion, all reserves, operating funds and assets are transferred to the ACRD. The ACRD can only use these funds for the same purposes for which they were established and for the benefit of those same residents (i.e. Cherry Creek monies cannot be used for other area projects). Asset ownership is transferred to the ACRD, but purpose and usage remains solely with Cherry Creek.
Q	Will I have a say on whether or not the CCWWD converts its services to the ACRD?
A	Yes, the CCWWD will conduct a conversion referendum in 2025.
Q	What if I have more questions on conversion?
A	ALL residents are encouraged visit or call the CCWWD office with any questions or concerns they have. Further information on conversion is available on the CCWWD Website at https://cherrycreekwater.com/ or ACRD Lets Connect at https://www.letsconnectacrd.ca/search?query=cherry+creek+waterworks+conversion

