



Metro Vancouver Waste Management Committee

Reference Panel Comments on the  
***“Strategy for Updating the  
Liquid Waste Management Plan”***

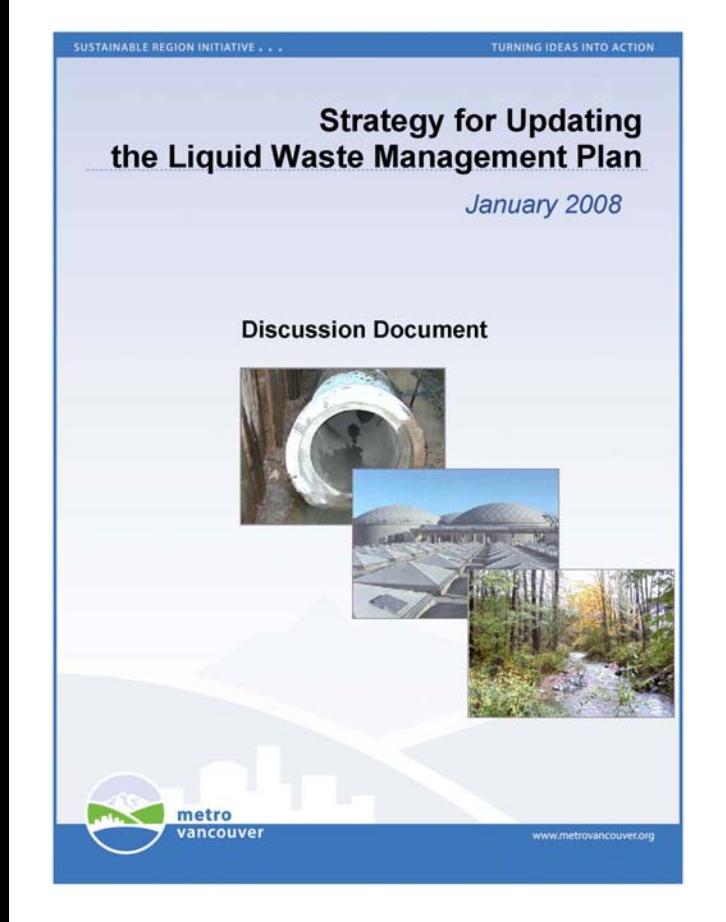
**Kim A Stephens & Christianne Wilhelmson**  
on behalf of the LWMP Reference Panel

July 9, 2008

**Since there is an invitation from the Province to  
‘change the rules to achieve the goals’...**

...start the paradigm-shift by changing the name to:

**Liquid Resource Management Plan**



# Presentation Road Map

Where we are NOW

What NEXT?

# **The Reference Panel process is working well:**

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- The group is rich in expertise
  - The group is collaborative and inclusive
  - There is good synergy with staff
- AND
- There is a consistent and common understanding of the issues and options

**We endorse the Goals, Strategies and Action Categories as identified in the February 2008 Draft – with the following amendments**

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- GOAL 1 –  
Protect public health and the environment,  
*with emphasis on the receiving environment*
- GOAL 2 –  
Manage liquid **resources** affordably and effectively, *with emphasis on resource recovery*

## **We agree that two core strategies govern the Plan Elements**

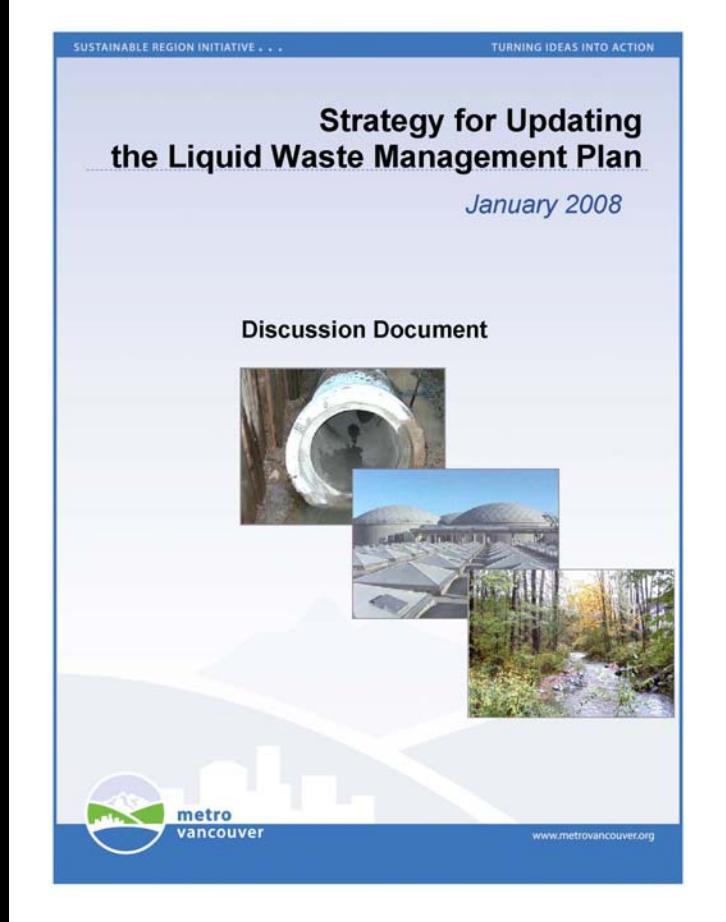
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- Reduce what needs to be conveyed and/ or treated:
  - Source control (toxins)
  - Inflow & Infiltration (particularly on private land)
  - Rainwater runoff volume (from private land)
- “Close the loop” so that environmental impacts are greatly reduced

**We submit that policy choices can be expressed in these contrasting terms:**

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- **The Old Business As Usual** is proven to be unsustainable, unaffordable and ineffective
- **The New Business As Usual** must be integrated, adaptable and affordable to achieve livability and sustainability objectives



# Presentation Road Map

□ Where we are NOW

□ What NEXT?



# The New Business As Usual:

Visualize What We Want Metro Vancouver to Look Like in 50 years

*“What the cell is to the body,  
the site is to the region”*

Patrick Condon, 1998  
University of British Columbia

**We believe that success in  
‘creating our future’ depends on :**

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- VISION
- LEADERSHIP
- INTEGRATION 
- INNOVATION
- AFFORDABLE  
SOLUTIONS

## **We believe decisions on sewage treatment must address affordability, sustainability and innovation**

- Consider life-cycle costs so to ensure financial sustainability
- Explore all opportunities to bring innovation to the table

### **And we wonder...**

- Can the region afford to wait 12 to 22 years for these facilities?
- Should the region bring a ‘return on investment versus cost recovery’ way-of-thinking to sewage treatment

# **“The elephant in the room” – unfunded municipal liabilities resulting from:**



**Please take a moment to reflect on the implications of the following observation:**

*Based on what we have seen to date, the unfunded drainage liability inherent in the current ISMP process could potentially match or exceed the \$1.4 billion cost for sewage treatment plants.*

# **A ‘Design with Nature’ approach and re-use of resources are key to climate change adaptation which must be part of this plan**

- Develop compact, complete communities
- Increase transportation options
- Re-use and recycle water, energy and nutrients from liquid wastes
- Protect and restore urban ‘green’ space
- Strive for a lighter ‘hydrologic footprint’
- Achieve higher levels of stream, wetland and receiving water protection



## **Where we believe the Reference Panel can make effective contributions:**

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- ***SEWAGE TREATMENT:***  
technology choices, level of treatment  
and innovation
- ***BUILT ENVIRONMENT:***  
asset management, cost control and  
greening of the urban landscape
- ***NATURAL ENVIRONMENT:***  
protection and/or improvement of stream habitat  
and marine receiving environment

**We urge Metro Vancouver to provide visionary leadership that ‘turns ideas into action’**

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1. **Vision:** What we want this region to look like in 50 years
2. **Goal:** Implement the “New Business As Usual”
3. **Strategy:** What we are going to do better or differently to get from here to there

**So, in conclusion.....**

Let us work with staff on the proposed actions, and together we will “do it right”