

An aerial photograph of a mountainous region with a river and coastline. The mountains are green and brown, with a river winding through them. The coastline is blue, with several islands and a large bay. The text is overlaid on the image.

**Metro Vancouver
Regional Engineers Advisory Committee**

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

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

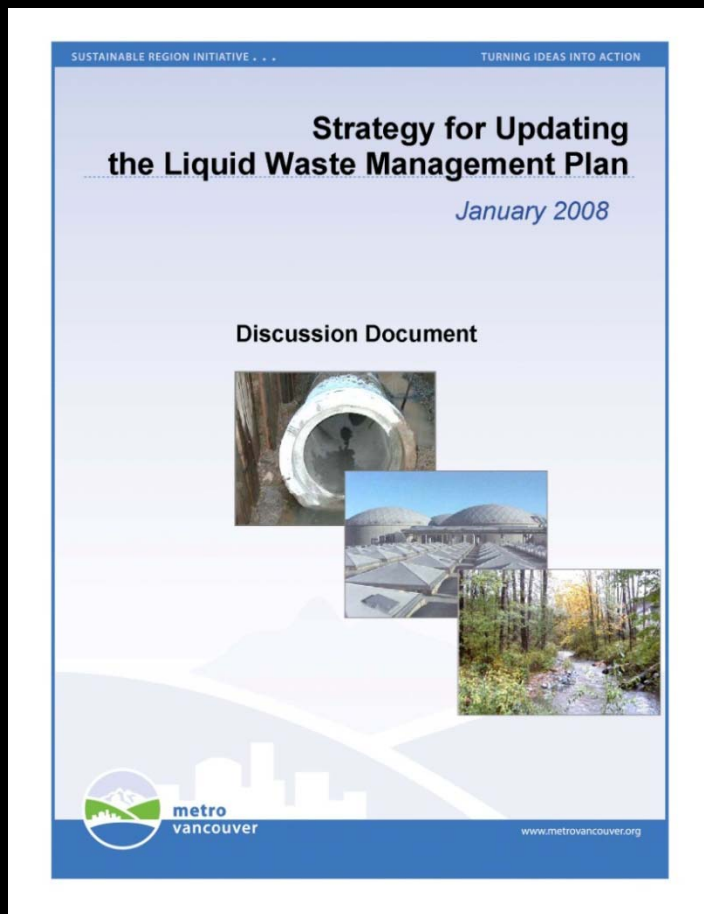
February 6, 2009

**Since there was an invitation from the Province to
'change the rules to achieve the goals'...**

...when we met with the Waste Management Committee on July 9/08,
we recommended starting the paradigm-shift
by changing the name to:

Liquid Resource Management Plan

This is in progress!



Presentation Road Map

- ❑ Strategy Overview
- ❑ New Business As Usual

The Reference Panel is committed and working well:

- 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 endorsed the Goals, Strategies and Action Categories as identified in February 2008 Draft – with the following amendments

- 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 agreed that two core strategies govern the Plan Elements

- 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 stated that policy choices can be expressed in these contrasting terms:

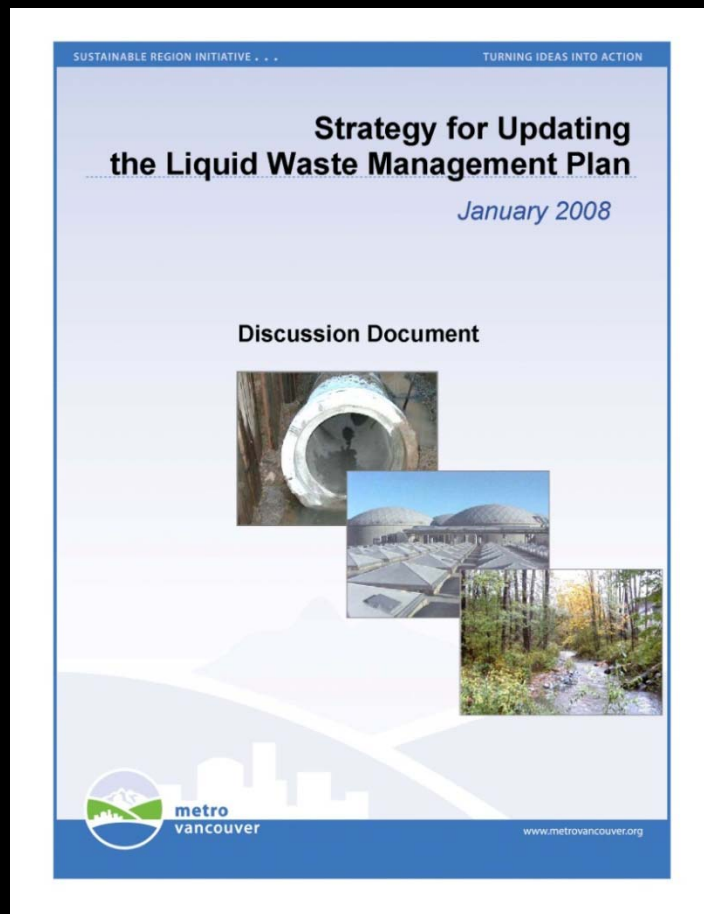
- **The Old Business As Usual** is proven to be unsustainable, unaffordable and ineffective
- **The New Business As Usual** must be integrated, adaptable and affordable to achieve livability and sustainability objectives

**We urged the Metro Vancouver Board
to provide visionary leadership that
'turns ideas into action'**

- 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

We concluded with this request:

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



Presentation Road Map

- Strategy Overview
- New Business As Usual

An aerial photograph of a lush green landscape. A river winds through the center, flowing into a large, irregularly shaped body of water on the right. The terrain is hilly and covered in dense vegetation. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

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 emphasized that success in
'creating our future' depends on :**

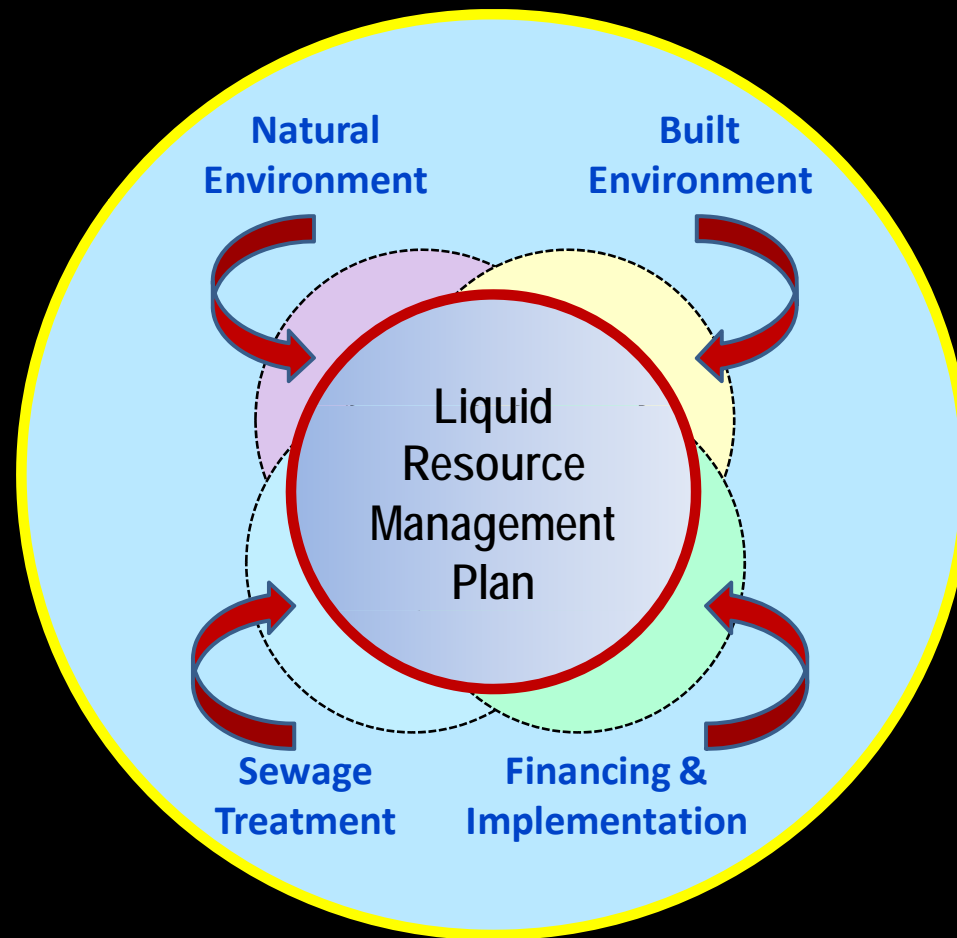
- VISION
- LEADERSHIP
- INTEGRATION
- INNOVATION
- AFFORDABLE SOLUTIONS



We identified these theme areas for structuring the Plan Elements:

- ***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

The 'theme areas' have evolved into a 'model for integration' in the region



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:



- Need for perpetual reinvestment in infrastructure – *“maintain what we have”*
- Unintended outcomes of ISMPs (Integrated Stormwater Management Plans)

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

