



FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

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FVRD Responds to Waste Management Committee Decision

CHILLIWACK, B.C: The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) responded today to the decision by the Metro Vancouver Waste Management Committee to recommend the Draft Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (ISWRMP) without amendments to the full Metro Vancouver Board.

In addition to initiatives to reduce and divert waste by 2015, the Plan proposes a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) strategy to annually incinerate 500,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste that will not be recycled, composted or otherwise diverted from households, business and industry.

In late June, the FVRD Board unanimously agreed that it does not support WTE incineration as a viable option for handling residual municipal solid waste and forwarded its decision to the Metro Vancouver staff and Board.

“To say we are disappointed in this decision is an understatement” said Patricia Ross, FVRD Board Chair. “Across the spectrum, there has been strong opposition to Waste-to-Energy incineration of municipal solid waste as an option.”

The FVRD, along with a number of civic governments, environmental groups and business and community agencies in the Metro Vancouver region have raised concerns about the impacts of WTE on human health and the environment. Concerns have also been raised about the cost-effectiveness of the proposed strategy and its impact on overall waste reduction targets.

Said Ross, “If the Metro Vancouver Board votes to support this recommendation and builds these facilities, it will have far-reaching impacts on air quality in the Fraser Valley. We are hopeful that the full Board will consider amendments and remove the WTE options for municipal solid waste from the Plan.”

The FVRD supports the other initiatives in the Metro Vancouver Plan to divert waste and increase reduction, reuse and recycling and hosts a website that offers information about air quality and waste reduction. To find out more about air quality in the Fraser Valley, visit www.airqualitymatters.ca.

For more information:

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