



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 3, 2024

Submarine watermain to West Bamfield set to be replaced in 2025

The new \$1.2 million submarine watermain project is moving forward thanks to the funding from three levels of government. The new main will replace the current underwater transmission line that supplies West Bamfield with potable water.

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District will contribute \$313,436, while Ottawa pitches in \$470,095, and the province kicks in \$391,707. The federal funds come through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program aimed to enhance infrastructure across the country, with a focus on green infrastructure projects. The Province of BC's contribution comes through the Environmental Quality Program.

“Replacing the existing waterline will improve the reliability and offer assurances that the delivery of high-quality potable water to the residents of West Bamfield continues,” explains ACRD Board Chair John Jack. “This is the most critical infrastructure replacement project within the Bamfield Water System, and it will ensure the continuity of this essential service while protecting the Bamfield Inlet from the release of treated water.”

The project will replace 400 metres of piping with a diameter of 150 millimetres, built in 1981, with 400 metres of 200 mm pipeline. The replacement pipeline will be weighted and include the installation of concrete armouring mats over the pipes to protect it from the environment and boat anchors. The current under water transmission line is at the end of its useful life. Through the years several repairs have been necessary on the existing lines, due to failures on existing welds. On two occasions, the community has experienced catastrophic failures resulting in substantial water losses and boil water advisories to West Bamfield. The replacement is necessary to ensure West Bamfield can continue to receive quality potable water, adequate system pressure, and meet the peak day demand.

“The announcement of funding for the replacement of our existing water pipeline is welcomed news to people in Bamfield,” says Bob Beckett, ACRD Director for Electoral Area A Bamfield. “This will bring a guaranteed, reliable source of water to West Bamfield and take away their worries that something unexpected could damage their aging water transmission line and restrict their access to quality water.”

Construction is expected to begin in the winter of 2025. The ACRD is grateful for the federal and provincial funds that made this project possible.

The Bamfield project is one of four infrastructure projects announced this week in BC.

- 30 -

For more information,
Heather Thomson, Communications Coordinator
250-206-5162 or hthomson@acrd.bc.ca