



Village of
Sayward

Memo for Information

For: Village of Sayward Residents and General Public

From: Andrew Young, CAO

Subject: Sayward Sewage Lagoon operation, lagoon aerator, and regulated discharge

Date: October 16, 2025

The Village's recent memorandum concerning the operation of Lift Station #1 led to some questions about the normal operation of the Sayward Sewage Lagoon, its aerator, and permitted discharge from the lagoon.

To start with, please be advised that Sayward's sewage lagoon is operating within its provincial requirements and permit. Samples of the effluent from the lagoon are collected regularly by Sayward Public Works staff for laboratory testing. Test results of a recent sample collected from the lagoon showed particularly good results for a lagoon sewage treatment system like Sayward's. Prior test results for Sayward's sewage lagoon have also been good. You may be interested to know that staff collected another sample from the lagoon on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, and sent it to a laboratory in Burnaby for testing. We expect to have the test results from the most recent sample back within a week.

Presently the aerator unit at Sayward's sewage lagoon is not operating. When it is operating the aerator helps to increase the amount of dissolved oxygen in the effluent in the lagoon. Interestingly, the recent good test results reported to the Village of Sayward occurred at a time when the aerator was not working. The Village of Sayward has contracted to remove and replace the aerator in the sewage lagoon in the coming weeks. To do that work safely a small crane will be required. After the aerator apparatus is replaced, we hope to soon see even better test results from our effluent samples.

The sewage lagoon that the Village of Sayward operates discharges into the waters of the Salmon River estuary and Johnstone Strait, but it does so normally and based on pump and level controls in accordance with Provincial regulations. Please note Sayward's Sewage Lagoon is not overflowing or spilling tons of raw sewage into Johnstone Strait in an uncontrolled manner. The operation of Sayward's sewage lagoon is closely monitored by the Village's Public Works staff,

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H2Ops Water Services, and of course by Environment Canada, Ministry of Environment (BC), and by Provincial health authorities.

The Village is looking into options to establish a monitoring and alarm system to alert its staff of potential issues with the operation of the Sayward sewage lagoon in 2026, subject to review of budget proposals by Sayward Council.

Many thanks to our Village's Public Works staff who kept a sharp eye on the operation of our Sewage Lagoon and for regularly collecting effluent samples for testing. That important work helps ensure we know the sewage lagoon is operating and doing its work properly.

Andrew Young, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer
Village of Sayward

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