

PO BOX 102 GILLIES BAY BC V0N 1W0

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

October 6, 2019

Purpose

To discuss and vote on the future of the GBID Residential Water Metering Program

Question

Are you in favour of the GBID terminating the residential metering program?

What do the vote results mean?

If a majority of the votes cast are **“YES”**

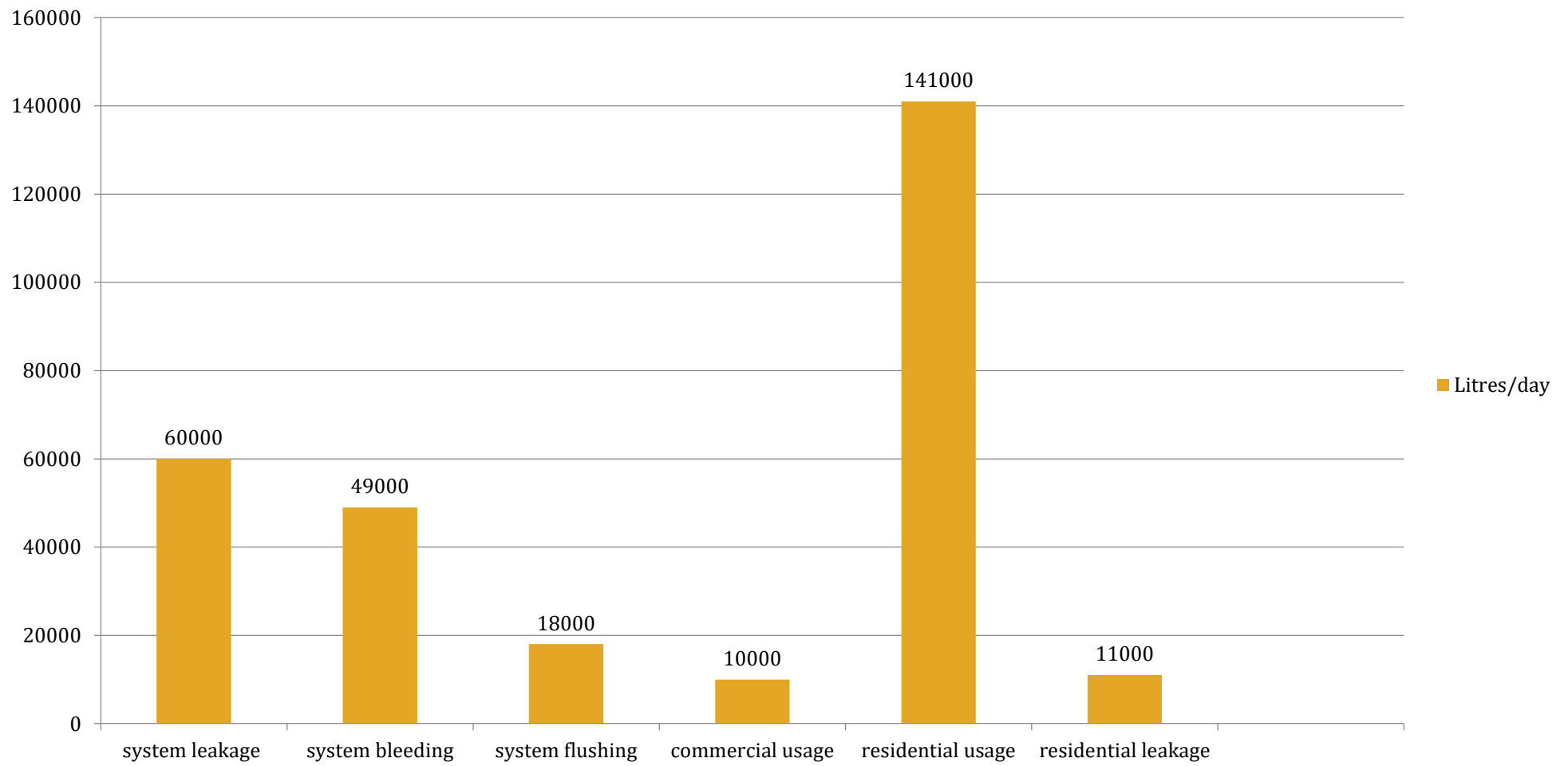
- 1) Each of the 95 residential ratepayers who has paid a \$400 fee to have a meter installed will receive a \$400 refund.
- 2) Water tolls will continue to be charged based on the water toll bylaw(s)
- 3) The existing meters will remain in place and may be used to gather data on water usage.
- 4) The Board may reallocate money saved (by not installing the rest of the meters) to water quality improvement projects.

If a majority of the votes cast are **“NO”**

- 1) The 117 residential ratepayers without meters will have meters installed and be billed \$400 each.
- 2) The Board may increase base water tolls for all water users to cover increased costs resulting from the metering project.
- 3) The Board may add additional fees based on usage to help cover increased operating costs.

What is our current water usage situation?

Engineering firm **Kerr Wood Leidal** (KWL) prepared a GBID water conservation plan in 2018. The report states that the GBID Cranby Lake water reservoir has a sustainable withdrawal rate of 2,384,000 liters per day (L/d) and that GBID has a pending water license application for 870,000 L/d. Current average total drawdown is 289,000 L/d or about 12% of the sustainable draw down. Current average residential usage is 140,638 L/d day or slightly less than 6% of the sustainable withdrawal rate. The following graph shows a breakdown of where the water drawn from the reservoir by GBID ends up:



Costing Background:

The KWL water conservation plan report identified numerous costs associated with the plan. Information from that report was used extensively by the Metering Cost Benefit Analysis Committee.

The **Metering Cost Benefit Analysis Committee** reported to the Board that no cost savings would result from a residential metering program. The committee also concluded that a metering program was not a necessary component of a water conservation plan.

To date 95 residential meters have been installed, at an average cost of \$800 each. Each metered property owner has been charged \$400, with the remaining \$400 being paid out of money collected by parcel taxes. There are currently 117 residences without meters.

The costs of the metering program are greater than any savings. The KWL report states “Costs for implementing this program include meter supply and installation, meter reading, billing, customer care, maintenance and renewal.”

Projected increased operating costs per household per year if water is metered:

Meter reading	\$4-10
Billing	\$38-57
Customer care	\$1-2
Meter renewal	\$10-20
Software and Hardware	\$5-10
Total increased costs	\$58-99
Minus chlorine savings	\$4-11
Net increased cost range	\$47-95

Projected net increased cost \$71

Capital Cost: The average cost of an installed meter is about \$800. The ratepayers pay 100% of the cost. \$400 is billed when the meter is installed. The remaining \$400 is taken out of revenue collected early in the year when the water tolls and parcel taxes are collected. If the project is completed the total cost to ratepayers will be \$169,600.

Water Quality: GBID is required to meet the requirements of the **Drinking Water Protection Regulation/Act**. Residential metering is not a requirement of the Act. However meeting the water quality requirements set out in the Act is a requirement. GBID does not currently meet the required standards.

The following is taken from the **GBID 2019 Vancouver Coastal Health Water Inspection Report.**

Observed violations:

501- Failure to disinfect surface water.

409-Total coliform exceedance pursuant to schedule A,DWPR

503-Failure or inadequate treatment for chemical/physical parameters.

The Current Board is on record as making improving water treatment the top priority and we all need to be aware that there will be significant costs involved.