

## **Project flush with funds**

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Okanagan Falls will be another step closer to getting a new sewage treatment plant if funding approval goes through next week.

As it stands, approval for the estimated \$10.1 million project should come on Aug. 5 from the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen board and a 30-day period will begin for the public to come forward with any concerns.

“We just obtained ministry approval so now we just need to go back to the board and approve our bylaws for borrowing,” said Andrew Reeder, RDOS manager of engineering services.

A grant of \$6.25 million from the Building Canada Fund and about \$97,000 a year from the Okanagan Basin Water Board will help pay for the total cost.

The new treatment centre, located about three kilometres from Okanagan Falls, will alleviate the issue of odour and produce effluent that has drinking water quality. The plant is also large enough that it can handle bringing both Skaha Estates and Kaleden online, although it may be done in stages.

“That will be a real benefit actually to the Okanagan Falls users because the operational costs will actually go down per unit,” said Reeder. “... it is by far the cheapest option for them (Skaha Estates and Kaleden residents) as well. So it is a win-win for everyone.”

Right now the project is in the pre-design stages and refining of the costs by looking at all the options of the treatment plant. The RDOS is planning to review the scope of the new plant with the public in September. Reeder added they are looking at completion of the plant in the spring or summer of 2012.