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NEWS RELEASE

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OFFICE OF AGLG RELEASES PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT ON COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT'S OPERATIONAL PROCUREMENT

SURREY – A performance audit on Comox Valley Regional District's operational procurement activities between 2010 and 2012 has found that Comox Valley Regional District has a good foundation to manage operational procurement strategically, has structures, policies and procedures in place, and has engaged in some efforts to achieve better value for money.

“We also found that to meet its operational procurement objectives more fully, Comox Valley Regional District will need to fill some gaps in its procurement-related policies and procedures and undertake additional analysis, monitoring and reporting to continue to enhance its operational procurement practices,” said Mr. van Iersel.

The audit report, released today on the Office of the Auditor General for Local Government's website (www.aglg.ca), includes detailed testing of 30 operational procurement transactions entered into by Comox Valley Regional District between 2010 and 2012. While the auditors found some documentation gaps and a few examples of transactions where minor steps in the procurement process were missed, staff mostly complied with the operational procurement policies and procedures.

The audit report says that the AGLG found that Comox Valley Regional District has demonstrated a commitment to ongoing improvement in operational procurement practices.

“Our recommendations to Comox Valley Regional District are largely enhancements to the practices already in place. We believe that implementing these improvements will result in positive progress that builds on its existing foundation and commitment to a high standard of ethics,” said Mr. van Iersel.

The audit report makes three recommendations:

- That Comox Valley Regional District should improve its purchasing and conflict of interest policies and procedures by updating them to address gaps and document expected practices.

- That Comox Valley Regional District should improve its purchasing card policies by updating them to address gaps and formalize existing good practice to ensure that the review process is documented.
- Comox Valley Regional District should improve its information, analysis, monitoring and reporting on operational procurement activities and results.

“I’m pleased with Comox Valley Regional District’s positive response to the audit and its commitment to act on our recommendations,” said Mr. van Iersel. “Comox Valley Regional District has made improvements since we completed our field work and we encourage it to further improve its practices through implementing our recommendations.”

In addition to releasing the audit report, the acting AGLG will release shortly an AGLG Perspectives booklet on operational procurement providing helpful advice and information to a wide range of local governments. This is in addition to the two AGLG Perspectives booklets released in 2014 and 2015 on the topics of capital procurement and asset management.

The release of the Comox Valley Regional District audit report completes the audit process for the Regional District. Prior to being finalized, the report was reviewed by the independent Audit Council, which has the statutory authority to provide the AGLG with comments to assist with the completion of each performance audit report.

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