

# Howe Sound Fire Protection Services Feasibility Study

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# Feasibility Study Review Process

- Review of Material from 1995 forward
- Detailed Site Review
- Several In-person Discussions with Area Residents
- Three Online Discussions with Area Residents
- Meetings/Discussions
  - Lions Bay Fire Department and Senior Staff
  - West Vancouver Fire Department
- Draft Report
- Final Report

# Fire Service Issues

- Fire Protection is an optional service in BC
  - Fire departments & related service provision must be created by bylaw and jurisdiction/powers are limited
- Fire Services Act → Fire Safety Act
- Office of the Fire Commissioner Mandatory Training Standards
  - Three Levels of Service
- Workers Compensation Act: mandatory rules governing safe operation of fire departments
- 1995 Mutual Aid Agreement for Metro Vancouver Fire Departments
- Fire Underwriters Survey
  - Dwelling Protection Grade
  - Public Fire Protection Classification

# Fire Protection Implementation

- It is possible to provide fire protection in these areas, though certain challenges must first be addressed in two of them
- Primary response would be from Lions Bay, supported by West Vancouver
- Neither fire department currently has authority to provide this service
  - A service agreement is needed with Lions Bay
  - For West Vancouver to support Lions Bay will require a Mutual Aid agreement
- Some fire insurance cost reduction should be possible
- For several reasons recommend a phased approach

# Fire Protection Implementation (continued)

- Ocean Point's infrastructure will readily support a fire response
- Material access and water supply challenges exist for both Montizambert Wynd and Strachan Point
  - These infrastructure deficits need to be mitigated before Lions Bay will consider providing service (or West Vancouver will provide support)
- As such, consider having the Montizambert Wynd and Strachan Point service areas initially focus on mitigating these issues
- Updated engineering reviews/costing will be required to develop solutions acceptable to Lions Bay and its Mutual Aid partner West Vancouver

# Lions Bay

- Lions Bay would be the primary Responding Department
- Authorization to respond will require a service agreement; Metro may need to develop a powers bylaw granting the LBFR the necessary operational powers
- Volunteer Paid-on-call Department
  - Variable Level of Response by firefighters by day and time
  - Level of Service (OFC): Exterior and Interior with support from W. Van.
- Already provides Road Rescue (EMBC) and First Medical Response (BCEHS) to the Highway and the three neighborhoods
- It will be necessary to develop a pricing model for the fire service

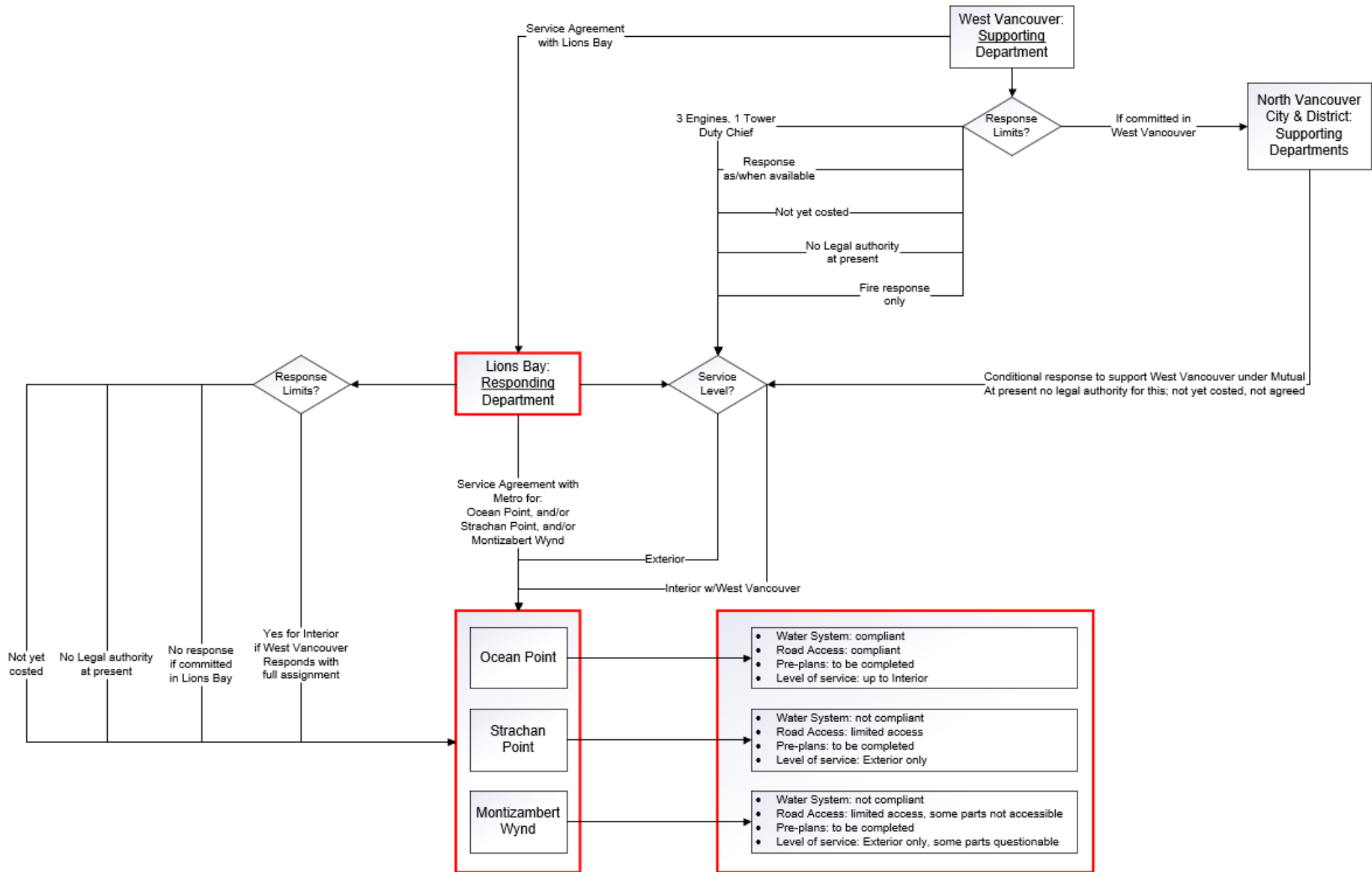
# West Vancouver

- West Vancouver would be a mutual aid partner supporting Lions Bay
- Not currently authorized to provide emergency responses in these three neighborhoods
  - Likely will require a standalone aid agreement to authorize its supporting responses
- Career I.A.F.F. Department
  - Level of Service (OFC): Full Service
- Currently support Lions Bay for structure fires in Lions Bay under the 1995 Mutual Aid Agreement
- Does not provide Road Rescue or First Medical Responder on the Sea-to-Sky Highway



# Service Establishment & Bylaws

- Subject to confirmation from Lions Bay that it will provide the service and the terms on which such service will be available
- Given the different circumstances, we recommend three service areas
  - Ocean Point: purely a fire/emergency service authorization bylaw
  - Strachan Point: initial focus on improving infrastructure
  - Montizambert Wynd: initial focus on improving infrastructure
- Will require residents' approval of the Service Areas in accordance with the Local Government Act
- Operational Bylaw: give consideration to creating an operational powers bylaw covering the three new service areas



# Closing Thoughts

- Service to Ocean Point is immediately possible, subject to agreement of terms with Lions Bay, & approval/creation of the service area
- Service to Montizambert Wynd and Strachan Point requires that the existing infrastructure deficits be addressed
  - Recommend creating the two service areas and having them initially focus on mitigating these deficits to meet the concerns of Lions Bay & W. Vancouver
- Metro & Lions Bay will need to establish aid arrangements with West Vancouver (and possibly North Vancouver District & City)

# Discussion