

To: CAO for the Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2019-02-12

From: Tareq Islam, Director of Engineering and Community Services

File No: 9600-20

Subject: Fraser River Flood Risk Assessment, Mapping & Mitigation Planning - Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) Application

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board direct staff to submit a grant application under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for the Fraser River Flood Risk Assessment, Mapping & Mitigation Planning project.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Environmental Stewardship
Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy
Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

PRIORITIES

Priority #3 Flood Protection & Management

BACKGROUND

Flooding is a concern for most communities in British Columbia, as it can cause significant economic loss, damage infrastructure and have large social impacts. With the added impacts of climate change, flooding is becoming an increasing risk.

Previously, no overall flood assessment has taken place within the Electoral Areas by the Regional District, so the level of risk related to flood is unknown. The FVRD does not currently play a role in flood management in the Fraser River, but only in emergency response. In recent years FVRD has been closely working with local dike authority from local improvement districts (eg. DAID, NIID) that don't have enough capacity or resources. FVRD has also been part of some studies and projects initiated by member municipalities.

As such, the FVRD seeks to explore and understand the potential impacts of flooding, specifically in the Electoral Areas that interface with the Fraser River, i.e. Electoral Areas B, C, D, F and G. In turn the study will allow the FVRD to develop a prioritized strategy for this growing need.

DISCUSSION

In order to fund the study, the FVRD has interest in applying for the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) that is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The intent of

this program is to “enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies”. The particular funding stream of CEPF that the FVRD is interested in is the Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping & Flood Mitigation Planning program. The funding stream would cover 100% of eligible activities up to a maximum of \$150,000. The application for this fund is due February 22nd, 2019. It is anticipated at this time that no additional funding from the FVRD would be required to complete the study if successful with the CEPF program. The intent is to structure a study scope and budget to fit within the grant limit.

This study will be done in collaboration and in alignment with the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) regional initiative which is looking at a coordinated flood protection strategy of the entire Fraser River valley.

The study would apply Fraser River flood profile information available from the Province and FBC. The study would also apply available LiDAR topographic mapping. Available infrastructure records will be applied, along with site reconnaissance and anecdotal information compiled from local operators in each electoral area. From this available information, flood mapping will be prepared. Consideration for climate change will be applied to the extent possible from available data from the Province and FBC.

The scope of the study would involve a flood risk assessment and high-level flood mapping through the Electoral Areas B, C, D, F and G to determine which areas are at risk and how it will affect the FVRD in its service delivery. This study will also assess look through regional perspective and collaborate with member municipalities. Given the vastness of the area, this study would be a first step towards assessing risks and priorities. It is expected that additional study will be required over time for areas of interest.

COST

There is no cost to the FVRD. This project would be funded at 100% from the Province of BC and is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

COMMENTS BY:

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported.

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported