

To: CAO for the Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2019-10-08

From: Reg Dyck, Manager of Electoral Area Emergency Services

File No: 7200-62

Subject: Chilliwack River Valley Fire Protection Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1536, 2019

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District consider giving three readings to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Chilliwack River Valley Fire Protection Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1536, 2019*.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

BACKGROUND

Members of the community of Post Creek, located in the Chilliwack River Valley, have approached the Fraser Valley Regional District and have asked for the Chilliwack River Valley Volunteer Fire Department (CRVVFD) to provide fire protection services to their community and be included into the existing Chilliwack River Valley (CRV) fire service area.

DISCUSSION

For many years formal and informal discussions have been held with certain residents of Post Creek in regards to the CRVVFD providing fire protection to their community. The recent concerns over interface fires in the Chilliwack River Valley during the 2017 and 2018 wildfire seasons has increased the awareness within the community around the lack of fire protection. The Electoral Area Director, CRVVFD Fire Chief and staff were approached by the community and asked to begin the process to include Post Creek into CRVVFDs fire protection area. Staff has now concluded the petition process, which has passed with the petitions regarding the addition of the Post Creek area having been validly signed by:

- a) the owners of more than 50% of the parcels that would be subject to the local service tax.
(49 out of 85 = 57.6%)
AND
- b) the persons who were the owners of parcels that in total represent more than 50% of the assessed value of land and improvements subject to the local service tax. Out of a total assessed value of \$21,167,400, an assessed value of \$12,354,300 was validly petitioned in. (= 58.4%)

The CRVVFD and staff have also discussed the challenges with adding this workload to the department and have concluded there is adequate staffing and equipment along with mutual aid support from our neighbouring fire departments in place to provide this service.

COST

Post Creek property owners have petitioned to be included into the existing CRV fire service area. Applying the existing tax rate paid by CRV residents the total cost to the Post Creek owners would be \$14,450 for this year which would be included in the CRV fire service budget.

COMMENTS BY:

Tareq Islam, Director of Engineering & Community Services

Reviewed and supported.

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported.