

To: Fraser Valley Regional District Board

Date: 2020-09-17

From: Sterling Chan, Manager of Engineering and Infrastructure

File No: 1855-30

Subject: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – British Columbia - Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure October 2020 Grant Intake

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board direct staff to submit grant applications under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – British Columbia - Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure intake for projects involving upgrades to the Canyon Alpine and Deroche Water Systems.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Environmental Stewardship
Support Healthy & Sustainable Community
Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

PRIORITIES

Priority #2 Air & Water Quality

BACKGROUND

The Canadian Federal Government and British Columbia Provincial Government has launched the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) - Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) Infrastructure Sub-Stream.

The Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) Program was established to ensure the unique needs of British Columbia's small, rural and remote communities are met – supporting their wide range of infrastructure priorities.

Under ICIP, the RNC Program is focused on improving the quality of life in rural communities by responding to the specific needs of these communities. Investments in rural infrastructure will help build stronger, more inclusive communities, help safeguard the environment and the health of residents, and help support local, low-carbon green economies, as well as work towards reconciliation with Indigenous communities, both on and off-reserve.

The intake for applications recently opened and will be closing on October 22, 2020, and is designed to target projects starting in 2021 or 2022, and that can be completed in five years following approval.

DISCUSSION

The RNC Program will fund infrastructure projects that support the unique challenges faced by rural communities. Eligible projects include improvements for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater, as well as reductions to soil and air pollutants through solid waste diversion and remediation. For communities with a population of less than 5,000, 100% of project costs will be funded under this program.

Regional Districts may submit one application per community in their area. Staff suggest submitting applications for projects in Electoral Areas A and G. Staff have consulted with the Area Directors for Electoral Areas A and G, as well as local First Nations.

The Fraser Valley Regional District is committed to ensuring all of its residents have access to safe and secure drinking water and where possible fire protection. As such, the project scopes for the proposed grant funding applications are described below.

Electoral Area A—Canyon Alpine Water System Upgrade:

The Canyon Alpine water system is supported by a small improvement district. Its infrastructure is aging, resulting in several water quality challenges, as well as numerous leaks, low pressure and, in addition, does not have the ability to deliver fire protection.

Past assessments of the existing Canyon Alpine water system determined that the following upgrades would be necessary:

- Replace distribution system piping to the appropriate sizing
- Repair/replace existing reservoir to prevent contamination from untreated surface water sources and provide fire protection
- Confirm all components are within the appropriate right-of-ways

If the grant application were to be successful, prior to commencing work, a service area would need to be established whereby the FVRD would assume ownership and operation of this system.

Electoral Area G—Deroche Water System Upgrade:

At present the existing Deroche water system is unable to provide fire protection. The existing reservoir includes domestic/balancing storage but has no emergency storage volume and has insufficient capacity/elevation to supply fire flows in accordance with FVRD Bylaws as well as the Fire Underwriters Survey.

The scope of the project would include a new reservoir as well as other minor upgrades to the system in order to provide fire protection. Additionally, these upgrades would provide the system with capacity in the future to service the nearby Lakahamen IR 11.

COST

There is no cost to the FVRD – all local government projects for communities with populations under 5,000 are funded at 100% from Provincial and Federal sources.

COMMENTS BY:

Tareq Islam, Director of Engineering & Community Services

Reviewed and supported.

Kelly Lownsborough, Chief Financial Officer/ Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported.