

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee
From: Elias Ross, Environmental Services Coordinator

Date: 2024-07-11
File No: 9050-20-001

Subject: Agassiz Air Quality Monitoring Station Completion

INTENT

The report is intended to advise the Fraser Valley Regional District Board of information pertaining to the completion of the Agassiz air quality monitoring station. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification or to discuss the item further.

BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) operates a regional air quality monitoring network that consists of six primary monitoring stations within the FVRD. These stations are located in Abbotsford (2), Chilliwack, Mission, Agassiz, and Hope. These air quality monitoring stations are essential tools used within the FVRD's air quality monitoring program. They measure key air pollutants that affect human and environmental health, including particulate matter, ozone, and nitrogen oxides, and provide essential air quality data to observe trends and declare air quality advisories.

The air quality monitoring station in Agassiz has been hosted within a spare room inside the District of Kent's Municipal Hall since 2013. To meet spacing needs within the District of Kent, Kent requested that the FVRD relocate the air quality monitoring station to an alternative location. The process of identifying and relocating the station began in 2023, with the assistance of Kent staff and staff from the air quality section of Metro Vancouver.

DISCUSSION

Since initiating the site relocation process, the following steps have been conducted:

1. New site selection and approval from the District of Kent
2. Building Permit application
3. Procurement of station infrastructure
4. Site preparation and building installation
5. Relocation of air quality equipment from District of Kent Municipal Hall
6. Completion of final inspection.

Centennial Park was selected as the new site for the air quality station as it is located close to the prior site, allowing for data continuity between the two stations. The site is also relatively open, allowing for good airflow around it so that it is able to measure representative ambient conditions.

Construction of the new site began in February 2024 and was completed on June 27, 2024. Equipment was moved and installed through the week of July 8, 2024. Figure 1 shows a photo of the new station in Centennial Park.



Figure 1: New Agassiz-Centennial Park air quality monitoring station (June 27, 2024).

The new monitoring station is now installed and is recording air quality data. Readings for the air quality network are currently available online as part of the FVRD's Air Quality Monitoring Network.¹

Final steps for this project include the following remaining tasks:

- Ensuring proper calibration of equipment and accurate monitoring of air quality data,
- Changing the station identifier on the provincial and regional resources from T44 Agassiz City Hall to T51 Agassiz-Centennial Park, and
- Installing new air quality educational signage to the exterior of the building, as was done recently at the Mill Lake air quality monitoring station in Abbotsford. Attached is one of the two proposed interpretive signs for the new Agassiz-Centennial Park air quality monitoring station. These signs will be installed on the new station later this summer to help raise awareness about the purpose of the building and the importance of air quality.

¹ Air quality data is available via <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air/air-quality/current-air-quality-data> or <https://gis.metrovancouver.org/maps/Air>.

COST

In total, the costs associated with purchasing the building, site preparation, and installation are anticipated to be \$165,233, which will come from Appropriated Surplus in the 2024 Air Quality budget.

CONCLUSION

The Agassiz-Centennial Park Air Quality Monitoring Station was recently completed and is now operational. The new site offers great data continuity and opportunities to share educational air quality messaging. FVRD staff would like to thank the staff at the District of Kent for their assistance and support throughout the project, as well as the effort provided by Metro Vancouver air quality staff to ensure seamless data transition to the new station.

COMMENTS BY:

Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services/Deputy CAO: Reviewed and supported.

Kelly Lownsbrough, Director of Corporate Services/CFO: Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.