



## STAFF REPORT

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

Date: 2025-02-13

**Subject: Invasive Weed Control Program Service Agreement**

**Reviewed by:** Lance Lilley, Manager of Environmental Services  
David Urban, Deputy Director of Regional Services  
Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services/Deputy CAO  
Kelly Lownsborough, Director of Corporate Services/CFO  
Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer

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### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board authorize its signatories to execute a new service agreement with the Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society for the management of invasive weeds related to **the Fraser Valley Regional District's Invasive Weed Control Program**.

### BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) operates an invasive weeds program targeting terrestrial noxious weeds that have potentially significant negative impacts on health and safety, agricultural production, infrastructure, and the environment. The four priority weeds managed as part of this program include giant hogweed, knotweed, wild chervil, and tansy ragwort.

The portions of the program that involve invasive plant surveys, treatments, and public engagement are conducted as contracted services. **The FVRD's contract for** these services, which is with the Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society (FVISS), expires March 31, 2025. A procurement process was conducted for the purposes of establishing a three-year service agreement starting April 1, 2025.

### DISCUSSION

The FVRD issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for invasive weed control services on December 5, 2024. **This RFP was posted on the FVRD's website, CivicInfo BC, and BC Bid. It closed on January 16, 2025** and four proposals were received.

Following evaluations of all proposals, the FVISS was identified as the preferred proponent to enter into another contract. **The FVISS's proposal scored high marks for experience and qualifications, quality and completeness, and overall costs.** The FVISS is a non-profit organization that is knowledgeable about local invasive weeds, has a strong understanding of the region, and is well-integrated with many agencies working on invasive weed control within the region. They also have an established social

media presence that is instrumental in sharing knowledge about local invasive species with the community.

With the direction from the Board, discussions will be initiated with the FVISS to execute a new service agreement for 2025-2028, with an option for the FVRD to extend for an additional two years.

#### **COST**

The cost of the contract is \$105,000 per year (not including applicable taxes) for 2025-2028. These proposed program costs are available within the Invasive Weed Control Program budget (430).

#### **CONCLUSION**

As a result of a completed procurement process, the FVISS was identified as the preferred proponent **for services related to the FVRD's Invasive Weed Control Program. A new service agreement with the FVISS is recommended.**

#### **COMMENTS BY:**

**Kelly Lownsborough, Director of Corporate Services/CFO:** This funding is available, subject to the approval of the proposed 2025-2029 Financial Plan.