



STAFF REPORT

To: Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2025-07-24

From: Trina Douglas, Manager of Protective Services

Subject: Fraser Valley Regional District Othello Rd Fire Protection Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1749, 2024

Reviewed by: Jaime Van Nes, Director of Legislative Services/Corporate Officer
Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services/ Deputy CAO
Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board give three readings and adoption to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Othello Rd Fire Protection Service Area Amendment Bylaw No 1749, 2024*.

BACKGROUND

Staff have received a request from the property owners of 21800 Union Bar Road to have the Othello Rd Fire Protection Service Area boundary (Service Area 218) amended and extended to include their property. Fire protection for Service Area 218 is provided by the District of Hope Fire Department through an agreement with the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD).

DISCUSSION

The property located at 21800 Union Bar Road is just outside the boundary of the District of Hope and is located within Electoral Area B of the FVRD. In years past it had been designated as having a semi-protected status with the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) with respect to fire protection services due to their proximity to the District of Hope. In March 2023, the owners were notified by FUS that their property has now been declared unprotected which has impacted their insurance and made it difficult and expensive to attain.

To include this property in the service area for fire protection, the property owners have been provided a petition for inclusion into the Othello Road Fire Protection Service Area. The petition requires property owners to sign the petition which includes the following:

1. a request to petition the FVRD Board to extend the boundaries of the current service area;

2. understanding that the operation and maintenance cost will be recovered by the participants in the service area;
3. identification of the property proposed in the service area amendment; and
4. The proposed method for recovering the annual cost of the proposed service.

The District of Hope has confirmed that they would accommodate the addition of this property in their agreement with the FVRD to provide fire protection.

The property owners have now completed the required petition, and it has been signed and returned to our office.

COST

This property will be added to the service area's assessment tax base. The agreement with the District of Hope to provide service will increase accordingly.

CONCLUSION

The property at 21800 Union Bar Rd in Electoral Area B does not currently have formal fire protection. The property owners are challenged by significant increases to their insurance premiums as a result of changes to their fire protection status resulting from a review by Fire Underwriters Survey. The District of Hope confirms their capacity and interest to support the inclusion of the property in its fire protection service agreement which in turn will provide a decrease to the property owners' **insurance** premiums and ensure fire protection to their property.