

To: Fraser Valley Regional District Board

Date: 2025-07-24

From: Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services

Subject: Funding application to Strategic Priorities Fund

Reviewed by: Jaime Van Nes, Director of Legislative Services/Corporate Officer
Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board authorize staff to submit a funding application to the **Union of BC Municipalities' Strategic Priorities Fund** to address natatorium dehumidification and energy recovery at the Hope and Area Recreation Centre.

BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) has been making significant investments into the Hope and Area Recreation Centre over the past few years, including upgrades to aging infrastructure and installing a new energy efficiency system. While those upgrades are still underway, there are opportunities to provide even further enhancements, pending additional funding.

DISCUSSION

The Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF), administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and formerly known as the Gas Tax Fund, is open to all local governments in BC outside of Metro Vancouver.

This proposed grant application is to complete the full installation of the natatorium dehumidification and energy recovery system that was originally designed for the Hope and Area Recreation Centre but removed from the construction scope due to budget constraints. These elements are important for managing humidity levels, protecting finishes and equipment in the pool environment, further reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving user comfort at the facility.

The proposed scope of the project, if funded, will include the installation of an exhaust-air heat recovery coil, a return fan, coil upgrades to the existing air handling unit, and integration with the heat recovery chiller. These components were part of the original mechanical and controls design and are ready for implementation. Once operational, the system is expected to increase energy efficiency by a further 25–35%, reduce humidity-related maintenance concerns, and capture waste heat to support pool and space heating which will lower utility costs and support sustainability goals.

The SPF application falls under the Capital Infrastructure stream, which allows for 100% funding of eligible activities. A full project design, detailed cost estimate, and supporting resolution will be included in the final submission. The application deadline is September 12, 2025, and requires a Board resolution indicating support for the proposed activities.

COST

A detailed cost estimate for the project will be prepared as part of the application package.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommend that the Board endorse an application to the Strategic Priorities Fund that will further enhance energy efficiency and infrastructure improvements at the Hope and Area Recreation Centre. This project meets the grant funding eligibility requirements.