

To: CAO for the Fraser Valley Regional District Board

Date: 2019-01-23

From: Carolynn Lane, Engineering and Community Services Technologist

File No: 1855-30

Subject: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board direct staff to submit grant applications under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Sub-Stream intake for the following projects:

- Electoral Area B: Dogwood Valley Watermain Extension
- Electoral Area C: Harrison Mills Transfer Station Relocation
- Electoral Area D: Integrated Water System Watermain Extension
- Electoral Area H: Cultus Lake Wastewater Collection System Upgrades

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

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

PRIORITIES

Priority #2 Air & Water Quality
Priority #1 Waste Management

BACKGROUND

Canada and British Columbia recently launched the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) - Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) Infrastructure Sub-Stream. The intake for applications is now open.

Under the ICIP Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Sub-Stream, the federal and the provincial governments will allocate approximately \$95 million towards this program.

DISCUSSION

The RNC Program will fund infrastructure projects that support the unique challenges faced by rural communities. Along with outcomes specific to the Rural and Northern Communities Program, eligible outcomes under the recent Environmental Quality Program and current Community, Culture and Recreation Program, as well as the outcomes related to Public Transit and Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation, will be open for application under the program. Allowing these additional outcomes will enable smaller, rural communities to access funding for a variety of project types and receive a larger proportion of funding from senior governments.

The core outcomes of this program are:

- Improved food security
- Improved and/or more reliable road, air and/or marine infrastructure
- Improved broadband connectivity
- More efficient and/or reliable energy
- Improved education and/or health facilities (specific to Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action)

Additionally, projects that achieve an Environmental Quality outcome are also eligible, including:

- Increased capacity to treat and/or manage wastewater and stormwater.
- Increased access to potable water.
- The project will increase capacity to reduce and/or remediate air pollutants (through solid waste diversion).
- The project will increase capacity to reduce and/or remediate soil pollutants.

Regional Districts may submit one application per community in their area. Staff suggest submitting applications for projects in Electoral Areas B, C, D, and H. Staff have consulted with the Area Directors for Electoral Areas E and G, and have determined not to make an application for the areas. For Electoral Area A, the Boston Bar Enhancement Society is applying for a grant for their Station House project.

The project scopes for grant funding applications are described below.

Electoral Area B – Dogwood Valley Water System Upgrades:

The Dogwood Valley Water System provides domestic water as well as fire protection to 23 properties in Dogwood Valley as well as Yale First Nation IR8. The project proposed would provide domestic water and fire protection to an additional 25 properties and would consist of the installation of 2,770m of watermain along Dogwood Valley Road and Yurkin Road, fire hydrants as well as service connections to each property.

Electoral Area C – Electoral Area C Transfer Station Upgrades:

The FVRD currently operates two transfer stations in Electoral Area C. One is located in Hemlock Valley and the other in Harrison Mills. The Harrison Mills Transfer Station is currently located on crown land under a licence of occupation. The licence of occupation was recently extended by the Province, however, it was done so on a short term (three year) basis. The Province has indicated that further extensions may not be granted and has suggested that the FVRD plan to relocate the transfer station in the future. The project proposed for the Harrison Mills Transfer Station is to relocate the transfer station to a new site at a location agreed upon with the Province.

Electoral Area D – Area D Integrated Water System Upgrades:

This project is located in Electoral Area D in the Popkum/Rosedale area. In 2017, the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) installed a casing pipe underneath the TransCanada Highway (Hwy #1) at the west side of the Popkum Interchange. The scope of this project includes the installation of approximately 1,860 m of water main to tie-in the water system by this highway crossing to the south end of the Area D integrated water system, to the water storage reservoir located on the opposite side of the highway at Bridal Falls. The application is requesting funds for the design, engineering and construction of the works associated with the extension to the water system.

Electoral Area H – Cultus Lake Sewer System Upgrades:

This project is located in Electoral Area H near Cultus Lake. This project is part of the larger scope of works currently being completed by the Fraser Valley Regional District to upgrade the wastewater system at Cultus Lake. The application is requesting funds for works associated with upgrades to the wastewater collection system.

COST

There is no cost to the FVRD – all local government projects for communities with populations under 5000 are funded at 100% from Provincial and Federal sources.

COMMENTS BY:

Tareq Islam, Director of Engineering & Community Services

Reviewed and supported.

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported.

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported.