



News Release

Church Road Well Field Project Borrowing Receives Elector Approval

Sechelt, BC—July 21, 2020—The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) has received approval from electors, through an Alternative Approval Process (AAP), to authorize borrowing of up to \$9,000,000 over a 30 year term to fund the Church Road Well Field project that will result in a significant increase in water supply in the Chapman Water System.

The AAP results will be officially reported to the SCRD Board at the July 23, 2020 Board meeting where the Board will consider final adoption of the *Church Road Well Field Project Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 725, 2020*.

The SCRD sought approval of the electors to borrow up to \$9,000,000 to fund the construction of the Church Road Well Field which includes the development of new wells, a new water treatment plant, pump station, and a new transmission and distribution infrastructure. The project will improve the connection between three SCRD water systems: Granthams, Soames, and the Chapman Water Systems to ensure the new water supply can access the largest amount of people possible in the SCRD's Water Supply and Distribution Service Area.

"Approval of the electors is obtained if less than 10% of the total eligible electors, calculated at 1,960, state their opposition to the borrowing by submitting a response form to the SCRD by the July 20 deadline. The AAP returned 21 response forms in opposition to the borrowing by the deadline, therefore elector approval has been obtained," says Sherry Reid, SCRD Corporate Officer.

Provincial legislation identifies circumstances where a Regional District may seek elector approval through an AAP. The process to obtain approval of the electors was required since the borrowing proposed for the Church Road Well Field project was for a period longer than 5 years. The Alternative Approval Process ran for 37 days, from June 5 to July 20, 2020.

The cost of the debt will be recovered through a parcel tax of approximately \$34.45 per parcel on an annual basis over the 30 year term of the loan. Only those properties included in the Regional Water Service Parcel Tax Roll will be responsible for repaying the loan.

"The SCRD Board recognizes the critical importance of ensuring adequate water supply in our region," says Lori Pratt, SCRD Board Chair. "The community has asked for strong action on key services such as water, so we are very pleased with the support evidenced through the results of the AAP for this project".

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