

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

TO: Infrastructure Services Committee – February 16, 2017

AUTHOR: Janette Loveys, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: CHAPMAN LAKE WATER SUPPLY EXPANSION PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

RECOMMENDATION(S)

THAT the report titled Chapman Lake Expansion Project Environmental Assessment Report be received.

BACKGROUND

The SCRD applied for an amendment to its Chapman Lake Park Use Permit (PUP) on April 13, 2016 and Water License Amendment on April 18, 2016, to allow the installation of a gravity-fed withdrawal system to provide additional water supply from Chapman Lake.

The Board was informed at the June 9, 2016 Special Infrastructure Services Committee meeting that the SCRD received formal notice from BC Parks, by letter received June 6, 2016, requiring further investigative environmental work in order to fully adjudicate the proposal and issue the Park Use Permit Amendment.

In addition to the BC Parks requirement, the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) formally requested on June 20, 2016, that a new water license application be submitted along with an Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) study as part of the Chapman Lake Water Supply Expansion project.

On July 21, 2016, the SCRD Board approved an additional \$123,425 expenditure from the Regional Water Service capital budget for the studies and environmental assessment work required by the Province of BC and the respective Ministries as outlined in their communications.

This decision effectively moved any capital work on the additional water supply to 2017.

DISCUSSION

Attached to this cover report is the Environmental Assessment Report which includes the Environmental Flow Needs Study. This report is on the SCRD website and serves as an update to the project.

As part of the requirements for the Permit Amendment, the attached report was forwarded to the shíshálh and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Nations for their review and comment to the Province.

BC Parks and FLNRO Ministry staff also received a copy of the report and their technical staff and biologist are in the review process.

SCRD staff have no further information to provide at this time, only provincial process. The comments from the partners and referral agencies do not come back to the SCRД, only a collective summary. No date has been provided by the Province as to when the SCRД might receive the summary.

Once SCRД staff have more communication from BC Parks and FLNRO, the intent would be to bring AECOM to a Committee meeting and provide more information and timing with respect to the next steps for the project. It would also be helpful for FLRNO staff to attend a meeting and provide an overview to their analysis.

Staff are fully aware of the complexities to the project and good public communications. Upon hearing back from the Province, staff will work towards ensuring inclusive and clearly understood communications are in place.

As well, a report will be forthcoming with respect to engagement once more information is provided.

STRATEGIC PLAN AND RELATED POLICIES

This report directly links to the set of values identified in the Strategic Plan.

In addition, this report aligns with the following Strategic Priorities:

Strategic Priority: Enhance Collaboration with the shíshálh and Skwxwú7mesh Nations by respecting their review/comment process and their rights.

Strategic Priority: Embed Environmental Leadership through the responsible management of the regions' water supply.

CONCLUSION

The Board was informed at the June 9, 2016 Special Infrastructure Services Committee meeting that the SCRД was required to conduct additional environmental assessment which included a flow needs study. On July 21, 2016, the SCRД Board approved additional funds to carry out this requirement.

The attached Environmental Assessment report has been forwarded to shíshálh and Skwxwú7mesh Nations for their review and comment. Staff have respected their process.

The report has also been received by the Provincial Ministries.

A further report will be forthcoming with respect to engagement once more information is provided by the Province.

ATTACHMENT: Chapman Lake Expansion Project Environmental Assessment Report

This report provides information Reviewed by:			
Manager		Finance	
GM		Legislative	
CAO	X- JL	Other	