



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: April 18, 2023

From: Paul Gipps, CAO

Subject: **2023 Sterile Insect Release Parcel Tax Bylaw**

Report Prepared by: Lisa Siavashi, Financial Services Manager

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council give first, second and third reading to the “City of West Kelowna Sterile Insect Release Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 0306, 2023”.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Economic and Growth and Prosperity

BACKGROUND

The Sterile Insect Release (SIR) Program was launched in 1992 with an initial goal of eradicating the codling moth in the program area. While the goal of eradication has been modified to the “control of the codling moth populations to manageable levels”, the program continues to receive the support of four of the five original regional districts both politically and financially.

The SIR program is funded through two means:

- 1) An annual tax levy on the assessed value of land; and,
- 2) A parcel tax levy on all parcels of land that are in apple and/or pear production.

Bylaw No. 0306 will set the parcel tax to be levied per acre of apple and/or pear trees within the City of West Kelowna.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The parcel tax set by SIR on all parcels of land that are in apple and/or pear production has increased in 2023 to \$156.42 per planted acre, up from \$150.40 in 2022. 2022 was the first time the rate had increased since 2010. The total amount of the parcel tax levy for West Kelowna for 2023 is \$13,192, which is up from \$13,139 in 2022 due the increase in the rate but with a net decrease of 1 parcel, or 3.02 acres in the SIR parcel tax roll in 2023. There are no direct financial implications for the City of West Kelowna as the requisition is from another taxing authority (RDCO). However, if Council did not approve the bylaw, the City would still be responsible to the RDCO for the costs of the program, which would have a substantial impact on the budget.

REVIEWED BY

Warren Everton, Director of Finance/CFO

Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager / Corporate Officer

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

PowerPoint: Yes No

Attachments:

1. B0306 2023 SIR Parcel Tax Bylaw
2. 2023 OKSIR Tax Roll – West Kelowna