



## COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: June 27, 2023

From: Paul Gipps, CAO

Subject: **Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning Regional Grant Application Endorsement**

Report Prepared by: Jason Brolund, Fire Chief

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### **RECOMMENDATION** to Consider and Resolve:

**THAT** Council support the Central Okanagan Regional Emergency Program's application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund's Emergency Evacuation Grant Program for \$156,600 to complete a Public Notification & Evacuation Route Planning Framework; and

**THAT** Council approve of the Central Okanagan Regional Emergency Program applying for and receiving and managing the grant funding on behalf of the City of West Kelowna.

### **STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS**

**Foster Safety and Well-Being** – We will pursue through direct action, advocacy, and collaboration with local and regional service providers, investments in community health, needs-based housing, emergency preparedness, policing, and other services that foster safety and well-being in West Kelowna.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to emergencies.

Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). Regional staff have prepared an application to request funding for Region-wide Public Notification & Evacuation Route project work in 2023 focusing on pre-planning for evacuation routes during an emergency. This builds upon regional evacuation planning work undertaken in 2021 and 2022.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Emergency Operations Centre is a regional program, and all local governments work collaboratively to identify where in the region support is required including best evacuation routes and communications to support during evacuations.

The Central Okanagan is supported by one main highway and will be significantly impacted during large wildfire events affecting each local government which include the District of Peachland, City of West Kelowna, Westbank First Nations, City of Kelowna, District of Lake Country and the Regional District of Central Okanagan Boundaries.

The RDCO is applying for funding to identify Planning Notification and Evacuation Route Planning framework for all local government and support organization stakeholders.

The proposed project activities include:

- Development of a new or updated Evacuation Route Plan and/or new or updated Public Notification Plan
- Collaborative planning work with neighboring jurisdictions
- Preparation of maps, spatial data, and metadata (where applicable must meet Specifications for LiDAR for the Province of British Columbia and if applicable the Specifications to produce Digital Elevation Models for the Province of British Columbia)
- Training, knowledge sharing, and exercising activities required to inform or test the Evacuation Route Plan and/or Public Notification Plan
- Presentation of the Evacuation Route Plan and/or Public Notification Plan to Council, Board, Band Council, or Treaty First Nation government, community organizations, etc.
- Amendments to relevant local plans, bylaws, or policies that are specific to evacuation route and/or public notification planning (e.g., Official Community Plan, land use plans, engineering and public works bylaws or policies).

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

By working together regionally, local governments participating in the Regional Emergency Program are eligible for up to \$156,600 in funding, which is much more than if they undertook this work individually. 100% of the project costs are anticipated to be covered by this grant, which will be managed regionally.

## **REVIEWED BY**

Jason Luciw, Senior Advisor Communications and Engagement

Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager

Warren Everton, Director of Finance / CFO

**APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY**

Paul Gipps, CAO

PowerPoint: Yes ☐ No ☒

**Attachments:**

1. UBCM-CEPF-Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning-Grant Application