



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: September 12, 2023

From: Paul Gipps, CAO

Subject: **State of Local Emergency Extension 2023**

Report Prepared by: Paul Gipps, CAO

RECOMMENDATION to Consider and Resolve:

THAT Council endorse the extension of the State of Local Emergency for the McDougall Creek wildfire authorized by Mayor Gord Milsom extended on September 8, 2023, for a further week set to expire on September 14, 2023; and

THAT Council authorize a further week extension for the State of Local Emergency for the McDougall wildfire until September 21, 2023.

BACKGROUND

On August 17, 2023, the McDougall wildfire that was burning north of West Kelowna had grown exponentially by early morning and was anticipated to create an immediate threat to our community by early afternoon of that day. In order to initiate alerts and begin considering evacuation orders the City is required to declare a state of emergency. Once this is undertaken the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) then has the authority under bylaw to initiate actions through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to support any operations necessary to protect the community and respond to the wildfire.

Under the Emergency Program Act, s. 12, the head of a local authority may declare a State of Local Emergency relating to all or part of the jurisdictional area. As the threat was imminent, per the Act, the declaration must be made by bylaw, resolution, or order. Therefore, this authority was utilized to allow Mayor Milsom to make the declaration.

To maintain the orders and continue working towards recovery it is expected that the State of Local Emergency will be needed to extend a further week at this time.

REVIEWED BY

Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager / Corporate Officer

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO