



## COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: April 9, 2024

From: Ron Mattiussi, Interim CAO

Subject: **2024 Sterile Insect Release Parcel Tax Bylaw**

Report Prepared by: Lisa Siavashi, Financial Services Manager/ Deputy CFO

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**RECOMMENDATION** to Consider and Resolve:

**THAT** City of West Kelowna Sterile Insect Release Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 0314, 2024 be given first, second and third reading.

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

**Pursue Economic Growth and Prosperity** – We will work with stakeholders throughout the region to advocate for and support efforts aimed at helping West Kelowna businesses prosper. With a focus on the future, we will advance opportunities to expand our economy, increase employment, and develop the community in ways that contribute towards prosperity for all.

### **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. 0314 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 2024 to \$162.68 per planted acre, up from \$156.42 in 2023. The total amount of the parcel tax levy for West Kelowna for 2024 is \$13,720, which is up from \$13,192 in 2023. There were no changes in the number of parcels or number of acres in the SIR parcel tax roll in 2024. 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**

Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager / Corporate Officer

## **APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY**

Trevor Seibel, Deputy CAO

PowerPoint: Yes  No

## **Attachments:**

1. B0314 2024 SIR Parcel Tax Bylaw