



## COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: April 8, 2025

From: Ron Bowles, CAO

File No: 3900-20-0328

Subject: **2025 Sterile Insect Release Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 0328, 2025**

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

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### RECOMMENDATION:

**THAT** Council give first, second and third reading to the “Sterile Insect Release Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 0328, 2025”.

### 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. 0328 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 2025 to \$169.19 per planted acre, up from \$162.68 in 2024. The total amount of the parcel tax levy for West Kelowna for 2025 is \$13,955, which is up from \$13,720 in 2024. There were no changes in the number of parcels in the SIR parcel tax roll in 2025, but the number of acres was adjusted down by 1.86 acres. 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

## **APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY**

Ron Bowles, CAO

PowerPoint: Yes ☐ No ☒

## **Attachments:**

1. Sterile Insect Release Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 0328, 2025