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## Highlights of the Regional Board Meeting – April 27, 2020

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### COVID-19 Utility Bill Late Payment Relief

The Regional Board has adopted nine amendment bylaws providing relief from late payment penalties on utility bills to help those facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. No late payment fees will be charged on outstanding balances for water, solid waste management and sewer utility invoices in the electoral areas for the rest of 2020. Penalty charges will resume in 2021 for outstanding utility payment balances. Residents that can afford to pay their utility bills on time are urged to do so in order to provide cash flow and help in mitigating potential interim borrowing costs for operations.

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### RDCO Response to Pandemic

The Regional Board has received a report on how the RDCO organization is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. The areas of focus include:

- Community and staff safety
- Provision of essential services
- Balanced use of financial resources and resident/business support
- Contribution to regional economic recovery

It's important to note that regional districts operate differently than municipal governments as they do not directly tax property owners and are required to submit a budget bylaw to the Provincial Government by March 31. Any changes made to the budget now will not change the 2020 tax requisition but may offset costs in 2021 through surplus funds.

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### Regional Essential Services Agreement

The Regional Board has approved a region-wide agreement for the provision of essential services during the coronavirus emergency. Each local government in the Central Okanagan has agreed to this mutual aid agreement providing staff and equipment as available to ensure continued drinking water, waste water treatment and solid waste management services for a partner requesting assistance in these critical service areas. Emergency Management BC has indicated eligible costs under the agreement will be recoverable.

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### Solid Waste Management Plan Approved

The Regional Board has given final approval to the new Central Okanagan Solid Waste Management Plan. The updated plan includes two amendments required with the approval from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy:

- Completion of a Five Year Effectiveness Review by December 31, 2024
- Re-evaluation by December 31, 2030 of organic waste diversion opportunities and an assessment of the effectiveness of maintaining landfill gas collection and use at the Glenmore landfill.

The plan outlines initiatives that initially target the reduction of waste; increased reuse of waste materials and the increased collection of recyclable and compostable components of the waste stream. When fully implemented over the next ten years, the initiatives have the potential to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and increase the region's diversion rate from 43% to 50%.

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### Economic Response and Recovery Efforts

The Regional Board has received an update on the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission response to the economic impact of the pandemic. An Economic Response Action Team is working to help local businesses over the next few months while a longer term strategy is being guided by the Regional Mayors and Westbank First Nation Chief's Economic Task Force to emerge from the crisis stronger and with new opportunities for economic prosperity.

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### Emergency Preparedness Fund Application

The Regional Board supports submitting a grant application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. The request for a maximum \$25,000 grant would be used to purchase needed equipment for the Central Okanagan Emergency Operations Centre.

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## Planning Applications

The Regional Board has considered the following planning applications:

- First Reading for Zoning Amendment Bylaw 871-261 at 6880 Sierra Drive (S Tulloch, owner) – Public Hearing will be scheduled for this application to add a Secondary Suite to an existing dwelling.
- First Reading for OCP Amendment Bylaw 1304-02 and Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 871-258 at 4429 June Springs Road (R Schoenherr, owner) to permit existing outdoor recreational ropes course and zipline business – Public Hearing will be scheduled once comments are received from Provincial Resource Management Branch and Interior Health and confirmation from owner that public access will be maintained over KLO Creek.
- One year Extension Request approved for OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 1274-06 and Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 871-246 at 6972 Barcelona Drive East (C Roy, owner) as the owner continues to satisfy concerns of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

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## Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid

The Regional Board has approved the following Central Okanagan East Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid:

- \$400 for Joe Rich Ratepayers and Tenants Society community information mail-out

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## Regional Board Meetings

Regional District office – 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna (Woodhaven Boardroom).

- **Thursday, May 14** – following 8:30 am Governance and Services Committee
- **Monday, May 25** – 7:00 pm

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## Audio of the Regional Board meeting at:

[rdco.com/media/283658/Audio\\_20\\_04\\_27brd.mp3](https://rdco.com/media/283658/Audio_20_04_27brd.mp3)

## KLO Road Building Closure



**The health and safety of the public and staff is our top priority.**

In-person services at the RDCO office have been suspended in support of health authorities efforts to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Staff are available weekdays 8:00 am - 4:00 pm by phone or by email. Responses will be provided as quickly as possible during regular hours of operation. During this health emergency, the RDCO will continue to provide essential services such as garbage and recycling, water and fire services, dog control and the Westside Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Regional District continues to follow the direction of public health experts for the safety of its staff and residents to reduce the impact on our community and our health system.

For updates on the RDCO response to COVID-19 and our provision of essential services visit [rdco.com/covid-19](https://rdco.com/covid-19).