



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Paul Gipps, CAO

Date: October 27, 2020

From: Jason Luciw, Communications Supervisor

Subject: **Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program Application**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council authorize staff to apply to the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program seeking funding to replace the Jim Lind Arena and Royal LePage Place Ammonia Chiller inside the Mt. Boucherie Community Centre's Refrigeration Ice Plant,

THAT Council agree to amend the five-year financial plan, as may be required, subject to a successful grant application; and,

THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer to execute the required contribution agreement for a successful application.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Invest in Infrastructure; Economic Growth and Prosperity

BACKGROUND

The Province of BC will commit up to \$30 million through the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) to support resilience in the face of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

DISCUSSION

Eligible CERIP projects must demonstrate community and economic recovery from COVID-19. Applicants may receive a one-time, 100 per cent grant, of up to \$1 million. Projects must start by December 31, 2021 and end before March 31, 2023.

The Province aims to dedicate program funding to short-term and small-scale infrastructure projects, such as revitalizing outdoor recreation, parks, washrooms and downtown areas; creating space for social distancing; improving emergency preparedness; and upgrading public buildings. Proposed projects must also create jobs in the construction industry and/or other sectors impacted by COVID-19, such as local retail and services.

The Senior Management Team reviewed the eligibility criteria and determined that the most suitable project is the Jim Lind Arena and Royal LePage Place Ammonia Chiller inside the Mt. Boucherie Community Centre's Refrigeration Ice Plant. Reasons include the age of the ammonia chiller and replacement requirements to meet modern safety standards. The existing chiller was installed in 1999 and the anticipated lifespan is 20 to 25 years. Furthermore, both arenas benefit thousands of users annually through a variety of programs and sports, and support a BCHL team, all contributing tremendous community, economic and tourism values for the greater Westside, including Peachland and Westbank First Nation. Other considerations include the project's shovel-readiness as compared with the grant program's timelines and the 2020 to 2029 Capital Plan already identifying the chiller as a priority for 2021.

The application deadline is October 29.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff will request 100 percent funding under the grant program. The City has obtained a current cost estimate of \$442,200, including a contingency. Provincial programs favor qualified projects that seek less than maximum funding amounts since grant opportunities are often oversubscribed and the Province can better maximize benefits by dispersing smaller contributions throughout BC to meet diverse needs. If the Province provides funding, the City can retain reserves for other priority projects.

CONCLUSION

The CERIP Program Guide specifically identifies arena chillers as ideally suited projects. The ice plant's community and economic benefits, cost estimates, timelines and shovel readiness best fit the program's criteria when weighed amongst other City projects. The arenas serve thousands of residents and visitors annually. Their safe, steady operations are vital to the community's well-being and serve as a significant economic and tourism engine for the greater Westside.

REVIEWED BY

Warren Everton, CFO

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes No

Attachments: Yes No