

**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 03 JANUARY 2007**

SUBJECT **INTERIM FUNDING FOR THE FEASIBILITY / PLANNING STUDIES FOR POTENTIAL
NEW WATER SERVICES OF THE CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT**

PURPOSE

To seek approval of the Electoral Area Services committee to provide interim funding from the feasibility reserve fund for purposes of carrying out planning studies for a number of water improvement districts. Environmental services staff have obtained commitments for funding the full cost of the studies from the Province of BC *Infrastructure Planning Grant Program* and the local water utility.

BACKGROUND

Environmental Services staff regularly receives requests for assistance from water improvement districts or private water systems to provide technical expertise on the organization, operation and performance enhancement for their water or sewer systems. This work is usually the first step in the process to convert the improvement district to a service of the Capital Regional District (CRD). The province, through their *Infrastructure Planning Grant Program*, has supported applications for funding to assist the improvement districts to carry out this work. The provincial program provides 100% of the cost up to \$5,000 and 50% share of the next \$10,000 or portion, with the improvement district funding the remaining share.

The CRD has obtained commitments to fund the following studies, to be carried out during 2007:

North Salt Spring Water – Salt Spring Island – Phase 1 study, water treatment	\$15,000
North Salt Spring Water – Salt Spring Island – Phase 2 study, source, distribution	\$15,000
Erskine Water - Salt Spring Island – Water system upgrade	\$6,500
Village Point Water – Mayne Island – Water system upgrade	\$15,000
Village Point Sewer – Mayne Island – Sewer system upgrade	\$5,000
Total	\$56,500

Claims to the province and local water/sewer district are made on completion of the project. The projects are expected to be complete by July of 2007.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Commitments for funding have been secured from the province and water/sewer districts to 100% of the study cost.

ALTERNATIVES

CRD could request the improvement districts commit to the full costs of the study up front. This may be a hardship on smaller districts which have been struggling on a year-to-year basis.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

CRD Operations division receives numerous inquiries respecting the process to convert improvement districts to services of the CRD. To assemble the basic information necessary for the transfer process, extent and costs of upgrade necessary, operations costs under the CRD etc., staff recommend the completion of an engineering study. These studies are normally completed with the assistance of the province through their *Infrastructure Planning Grant Program* which provides up to \$10,000 of a \$15,000 study. The division has received commitments from the province and from three improvement districts to carry out a total of five studies in this manner. The costs for the studies have received interim funding through the feasibility fund for the electoral areas with the funds repaid when claims are submitted at the completion of the project.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Area Services committee:

1. approve interim funding for Capital Regional District staff to complete a number of engineering studies on behalf of water/sewer districts as detailed following; and

North Salt Spring Water - Phase 1	\$15,000
North Salt Spring Water - Phase 2	\$15,000
Erskine Water	\$6,500
Village Point Water	\$15,000
Village Point Sewer	\$5,000
Total	\$56,500

2. direct Environmental Services staff to proceed with the work.

Gary Hendren, ASCT
Local Services Engineering Coordinator

Dwayne Kalynchuk, PEng
General Manager, Environmental Services
Concurrence

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