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**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 03 AUGUST, 2011**

**SUBJECT SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS (SGI) WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE
INVENTORY**

ISSUE

SGI water and sewer infrastructure inventory

BACKGROUND

Over the years, CRD has acquired water and sewer systems throughout the three electoral areas from improvement districts, regulated utilities, or other third parties. Without ongoing investment in infrastructure renewal and/or replacement, water and sewer systems have aged to the point where they are no longer sustainable; remediation is required to ensure that the capacity to deliver water and sewer services compliant with regulatory standards is maintained.

As a starting point, the CRD has identified the need for a Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) that accomplishes the following:

1. Identifies the quantity, age, condition and approximate life expectancy of the water and sewer infrastructure;
2. Estimates the cost to renew or replace this infrastructure;
3. Develops a long-term financial plan to fund infrastructure renewal or replacement as required to meet service standards.

For the SGI infrastructure, there are significant gaps in the data currently available. Thus, the ability to make informed and fiscally responsible planning decisions affecting the SGI Electoral Area's infrastructure is compromised. To address this deficiency, a comprehensive inventory of SGI water and sewer infrastructure – including a standpipe inventory – is recommended. Its eligibility for Gas Tax funding falls under the "*capacity building*" category which includes projects, such as infrastructure development plans, that strengthen the ability of local governments to develop and implement integrated community sustainability planning.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That a Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) water and sewer infrastructure inventory, inclusive of a standpipe inventory, be conducted with funding of \$150,000 from the SGI portion of the Community Works Fund (CWF) to cover the grantable expenses.
2. That an SGI water and sewer infrastructure inventory not be developed.

IMPLICATIONS

Social Implications

The SGI Electoral Area's growing population will continue to exert pressure on the water and sewer infrastructure. Furthermore, this well informed population has rising expectations of quality service consistent with regulatory standards.

Environmental Implications

The changing regulatory environment is demanding higher performance standards for water and sewer systems. The CRD needs to meet those standards in a sustainable manner through well-informed infrastructure management decisions.

Financial Implications

The SGI portion of the CWF can provide the funding of \$150,000 to help offset the total cost of the inventory. This project is considered eligible for Federal Gas Tax Agreement under the capacity building project category; this category includes projects, such as infrastructure development plans, that strengthen the ability of local governments to develop and implement integrated community sustainability planning.

CONCLUSION

The CRD needs to manage the electoral areas' water and sewer infrastructure in a sustainable manner. Without ongoing investment in renewal/replacement, this infrastructure has aged to the extent that its long-term sustainability is compromised. In preparation for infrastructure remediation, a comprehensive plan, referred to as SAMP, is required to specify the infrastructure's current status (quantity, age, condition, and approximate life expectancy) and remediation costs. As part of this plan, a comprehensive inventory of the SGI water and sewer infrastructure — including a standpipe inventory — is required.

Most of the costs involved in preparing the SGI inventory are eligible for CWF funding under the terms of the Federal Gas Tax Agreement. Specifically, the SGI inventory qualifies for Gas Tax funding as a capacity building project related to infrastructure development.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Area Services Committee recommend to the CRD Board:

1. That a Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) water and sewer infrastructure inventory, inclusive of a standpipe inventory, be conducted with funding of \$150,000 from the SGI portion of the Community Works Fund (CWF) to cover the grantable expenses.

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