

**REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 18 APRIL 2007**

SUBJECT NSERC RESEARCH PROPOSAL

PURPOSE

To provide a letter of support for the NSERC grant application by Dr. Weaver for funding of the project entitled 'Ecosystem adaptation and freshwater availability in response to climate change on Southern Vancouver Island'.

BACKGROUND

Dr. Andrew Weaver, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria, has submitted a strategic grant application to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada for funding of a project entitled 'Ecosystem adaptation and freshwater availability in response to climate change on Southern Vancouver Island'.

Dr. Weaver has developed a dense network of weather stations on Vancouver Island and proposes to use this data to develop future climate change scenarios through development of statistical downscaling techniques. These scenarios will be used to make projections of future water availability, which can be used in watershed and drinking water management. In addition, the research will provide an assessment of the adaptability of existing ecosystems to the future climate change, through examination of the relationship between the existing ecosystems and weather patterns. It will assess the potential effectiveness of specific interventions that could assist these ecosystems to adapt to future climate change.

Dr. Weaver has asked for a letter of support from the Regional Water Supply Commission for the grant application. As the deadline for submissions was April 6, 2007, the attached letter was provided to Dr. Weaver indicating that a request would be submitted to the Commission with a recommendation that it support the application for funding.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide a letter of support.
2. Do not provide a letter of support.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Alternative 1. Provide a letter of support.

Dr. Weaver is not requesting a cash contribution from the CRD, but in-kind support, namely staff time, access to weather data, etc. If the application is successful, the outcomes of the research will provide us with additional information on the implications of climate change and possible adaptive strategies.

Alternative 2. Do not provide a letter of support.

Without a letter of support the chances of the grant application being approved will be diminished.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Water Supply Commission provide a letter of support for the NSERC grant application by Dr. Weaver for funding of the project entitled 'Ecosystem adaptation and freshwater availability in response to climate change on Southern Vancouver Island'.

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