



News Release

Chapman Lake Supply Expansion Project to Proceed With Elector Approval

Sechelt, BC—July 28, 2016—The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Board has received approval from electors, through an Alternative Approval Process (AAP), to authorize borrowing of up to \$5,000,000 over a thirty year term for the design and construction of the Chapman Lake Water Supply Expansion Project.

The AAP results were officially reported to the SCRD Board at the July 28 Regular Board Meeting.

An AAP allows a Board to proceed with an action unless at least 10% (calculated at 1,888 electors) of the electors state their opposition within a prescribed period. The AAP held in relation to the project returned 969 responses. The process to obtain approval of the electors was required since the borrowing proposed for the project is for a period longer than five years.

“The SCRD Board recognizes the critical importance of ensuring adequate water supply in our region,” says Garry Nohr, SCRD Board Chair. “We are very pleased with the support evidenced through the results of the AAP for the Chapman Lake supply expansion project, and we are looking forward to getting the project started as soon as possible”.

In 2013, the SCRD Board adopted a Comprehensive Regional Water Plan. The Plan examined several different options for short and long term water supply to the Sunshine Coast communities.

After the record breaking 2015 drought and implementation of Stage 4 water restrictions, the SCRD Board approved a plan to increase the available draw-down from Chapman Lake from the current 3.0 metres to 8.0 metres. The additional 5.0 metres is to be accessed during periods of drought and until long-term source development options specified in the Comprehensive Regional Water Plan are constructed. The selected long-term option for the expansion of the water supply is to construct an engineered lake. Land acquisition for the engineered lake is anticipated to take several years.

“The SCRD shares the community’s concerns for the environmental impact that such a project could have on the Tetrahedron Provincial Park”, says Bryan Shoji, SCRD General Manager, Infrastructure Services. “The project does require an environmental assessment and is subject to regulatory approvals. It is important to note that the SCRD is committed to these processes. The field studies and work will be conducted throughout the summer of 2016.”

The costs of the debt will be recovered through a parcel tax on those properties that have access to Regional District water within the Water Supply and Distribution Service Area (Electoral Areas A – Egmont / Pender Harbour, B – Halfmoon Bay, D – Roberts Creek, E - Elphinstone, F – West Howe Sound and the District of Sechelt).

The cost of repaying the debt over a thirty year period would be approximately \$246,857 per year for the term of the debt. The parcel tax would amount to approximately \$23 per parcel on an annual basis until the debt is retired.

“This project supports our strategic priority to embed environmental leadership through responsible management of our water supply,” says Chair Nohr.

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