



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

To: Regional Board
From: Director of Development and Engineering Services
Date: February 20, 2025
Subject: Infrastructure Planning Grant – Westside Liquid Waste Management Plan

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors - Unweighted Corporate Vote - Simple Majority (LGA s.208)*

Purpose: To request authorization for RDCO staff to submit a grant application under the BC Provincial Government Infrastructure Planning Grant to support the Westside Liquid Waste Management Update project.

Executive Summary:

The [Infrastructure Planning Grant Program](#) is a provincial funding stream that is focused on projects related to the development of sustainable community infrastructure that will improve public health and safety, encourage resilient communities, and protect the natural environment. Staff have prepared a regional application to request grant funding to complete necessary pre-work in support of the Westside Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) update report.

The current Westside LWMP was last updated in 2000. The Province has indicated that an update to the plan is required, and this pre-planning work supports this critical management plan update.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board supports the submission of an application under the Infrastructure Planning Grant Program to support the update of the Westside Liquid Waste Management Plan to a maximum of \$10,000;

AND THAT the Regional Board supports staff to spend the funds when they are authorized through a successful application.

Respectfully submitted by: Mike Wyman, Manager of Engineering Services

Report Approved by: Travis Kendel, Associate Director of Development and Engineering Services

Approved for Agenda: Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan Alignment:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness | <input type="checkbox"/> Truth and reconciliation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and wellness | √ Environment and climate – Regional priority only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth and development – Electoral Area priority only |

Background:

The RDCO owns and operates the Westside Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WRWTP) under an Operational Certificate (OC). The Westside LWMP guides the use and future of both the plant and the OC. Recently, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) indicated that the following pre-work be done before progressing to a LWMP update:

- A summary of RDCO's relationship with the communities that the WRWTP services, namely, City of West Kelowna (CWK), District of Peachland, and Westbank First Nation (WFN);
- A summary of current stormwater management practices;
- A characterization of the progress that the RDCO has made on the 16 objectives that were identified in the LWMP that was issued in 2000; and,
- A list of short-term recommendations for timing and scope of an update to the Westside LWMP.

The RDCO has retained Urban Systems to complete this work. The work plan separates this project into three parts:

- I. Liquid Waste Service Summary
- II. LWMP Progress Assessment
- III. Short-Term Recommendations (a letter under separate cover) for the Liquid Waste Management Plan redevelopment

Considerations:**Organizational/External:**

- The Westside LWMP impacts how Liquid Waste is managed within the RDCO, Peachland, and West Kelowna. Requirements within an approved LWMP must be completed to achieve compliance with the Environmental Management Act.

Financial:

- The majority of funding for the Westside LWMP is planned to be provided through the WRWTP and its associated collection system.
- Additional work with the LWMP to support Electoral Area specific outcomes can be supported through creative grant applications.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

- The Westside LWMP is currently in force and must not be conflicted by decisions of local jurisdictions. Updating the LWMP to align with provincial regulations ensures compliance with legal requirements, avoiding conflicts with the *Environmental Management Act*. This alignment enhances environmental protection by incorporating the latest standards and practices, leading to better safeguarding of local water bodies and ecosystems. Public health is improved through modernized waste management practices that reduce contamination risks.