



Regional Board Report

Information

To: Regional Board
From: Director of Protective Services/Regional Fire Chief
Date: February 19, 2026
Subject: Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment-Regional Climate Resilience Strategy

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

Purpose: To provide the Regional Board with an update on the development of the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) Comprehensive Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) and the corresponding Regional Climate Resilience Strategy (RCRS)

Executive Summary:

The Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) is undertaking a comprehensive grant funded Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) to better understand natural hazard risks—such as, flooding, drought, extreme heat, geohazards, and seismic events—across Electoral Area East, Electoral Area West, and all RDCO community parks. The HRVA, required under the Emergency and Disaster Management Act, incorporates future climate projections and vulnerability considerations to identify how hazards may impact residents, critical infrastructure, services, and ecosystems.

Concurrently, the Regional Climate Resilience Strategy (RCRS), also grant funded, is being developed as a complementary initiative. Completing the HRVA and RCRS together ensures an efficient, coordinated approach that strengthens the region’s ability to adapt to climate-related risks while supporting informed planning and operational decisions.

Through integration and leveraging preceding studies and planning efforts by RDCO member municipalities, First Nations, regional partners, and provincial agencies, ensuring alignment with existing knowledge, efficiencies are achieved when building both strategies. The findings will inform future emergency management updates, land-use planning, infrastructure investment, and climate adaptation initiatives, supporting long-term regional resilience. The HRVA will assess hazards and vulnerabilities across Electoral Area East, Electoral Area West, and RDCO community parks, using localized historical data and future climate projections to understand how risks may evolve. At the same time, the RCRS will help translate this risk information into climate adaptation strategies and regional actions.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board receives the Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment – Regional Climate Resilience Strategy Report from the Director of Protective Services/Regional Fire Chief dated February 19, 2026, for information.

Respectfully submitted by: Mike Walroth, Director of Protective Services/Regional Fire Chief

Approved for Agenda: Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan Alignment:

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

The Central Okanagan is experiencing increasingly frequent and severe natural hazard events—including wildfires, floods, drought, extreme heat, and geohazards—highlighting the need for a coordinated and climate-informed understanding of regional risk. In response, the Regional Board supported a grant application in 2023 through the UBCM Regional Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation (DRR–CA) program. The application was successful, and the RDCO received \$150,000 to complete region-wide disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation planning.

This project was identified as a priority in the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Priority Projects Plan, developed collaboratively with staff across the region and endorsed by the Board in December 2024. The grant project focuses on identifying risks and vulnerabilities associated with more extreme weather events and determining proactive actions to reduce and prepare for those risks.

There are strong synergies between the DRR–CA project and the Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) currently underway. Completing the HRVA and Regional Climate Resilience Strategy (RCRS) together provides significant efficiency in data analysis, engagement, communications, and staff resources, maximizing value to the region and avoiding duplication of effort.

The RCRS will also leverage and build upon climate-related planning already completed or underway by member governments, including the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy, Peachland's Community Energy and Emissions Plan, West Kelowna's Climate Action Report, and Lake Country's Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Specifically, the RCRS will focus on actions the RDCO can take, including actions that benefit all member governments and are best implemented through region-wide collaboration.

Project Phases

- Phase 1: Project Management & Engagement Planning
 - including project webpage and community survey
- Phase 2: Hazard Exposure Analysis & Mapping
- Phase 3: Vulnerability & Risk Assessment
- Phase 4: Hazard Mitigation & Resilience Planning
 - including Board presentations

Together, these efforts will improve emergency preparedness, guide land-use and infrastructure planning, support climate adaptation actions, and support a resilient and future-ready Central Okanagan.

Considerations:

Organizational/External:

Engagement involves Westbank First Nation, Okanagan Indian band and the Okanagan Nation Alliance as well as Kelowna, Lake Country, Peachland and West Kelowna. The process includes public-facing communication, workshops and targeted outreach to vulnerable and equity-seeking populations.

Financial:

Both the HRVA and RCRS are fully grant funded.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Emergency and Disaster Management Act (2023) – HRVA requirement

Local Government Act – Section 473 (GHG reduction target)

Considerations not applicable:

- Alternate Recommendation

Attachment(s): 1. HRVA-RCRS Presentation
