

COSAR – Capital Needs and Funding Analysis

Regional Board Meeting

November 22nd, 2021

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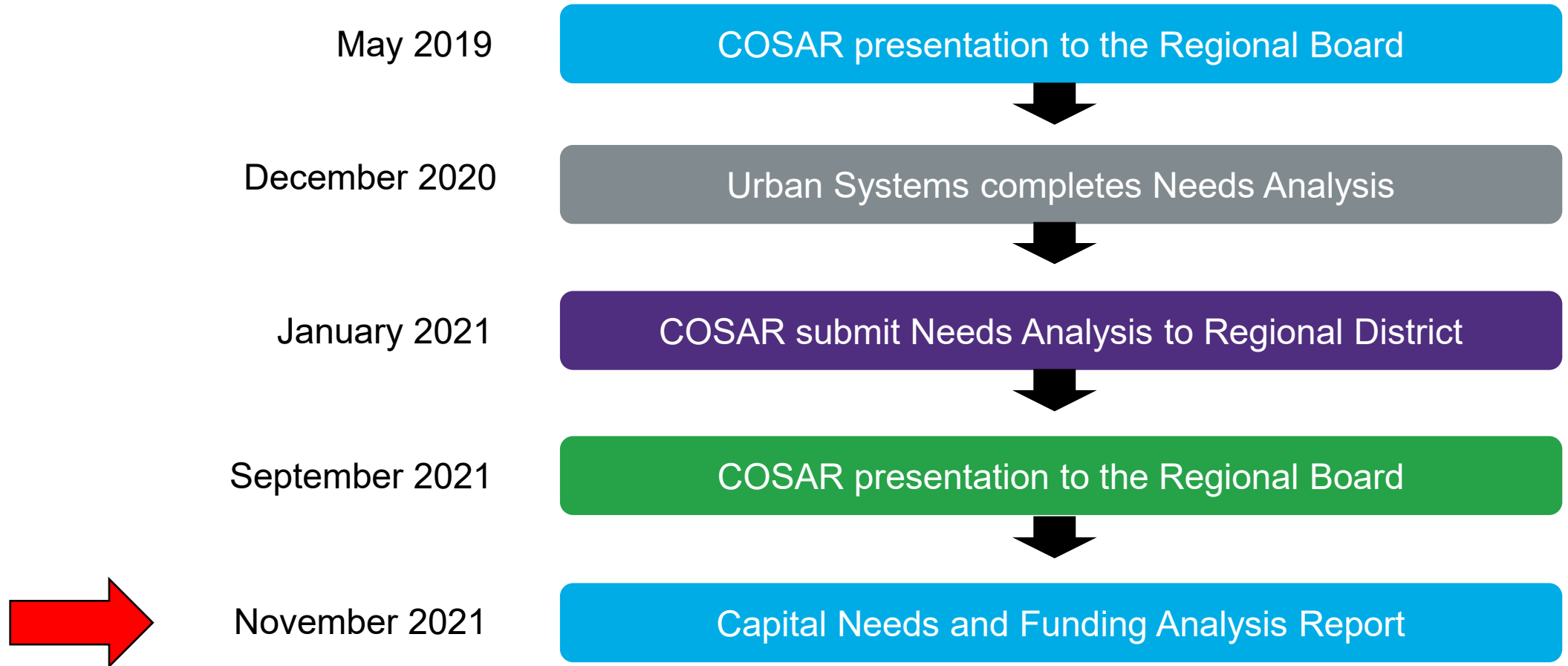


COSAR - Capital/Funding Report

Purpose

- To present the Regional Board with a capital needs and funding analysis report regarding the building needs assessment for the Central Okanagan Search and Rescue

Background



Regional Rescue Program

- Created in March 1989 via an amendment to the RDCO Letters Patent
- Regional Rescue provides the following services:

Auto Extrication

Ice Rescue

Swift Water Rescue

Low Embankment Rescue

Technical High Angle Rope Rescue

Confined Space Rescue

Hazardous Materials Response

Marine Rescue

Radio System

Emergency Program Management

Regional Fire Dispatch

- In 2021:

- Maximum funding available = \$30.5M
- Approved Regional Rescue budget = \$2.5M
- Cost to “Average Dwelling” = \$30.32 per dwelling

COSAR Program

- COSAR established in 1954 and is operated by volunteers.
- COSAR provides the following services:

Urban/Wilderness Reach

Sustained Marine/Underwater Search

Tracking

Technical Rope Rescue

Avalanche Rescue

Wilderness Rope Rescue

Basic First Aid/EMR

Access to H.E.T.S. Response (Helicopter)

Civil Emergency Logistical Support

Swift Water Rescue

Snowmobile, eBike and ATV teams

- In 2020, COSAR Funding:

▪ EMBC (Tasks)	-	\$180K
▪ Grants/donations	-	\$110K
▪ RDCO	-	\$27K

Emergency Management BC Program

- Search and Rescue is a provincial responsibility funded via programs supported by EMBC, including:
 - expense reimbursement to support deployment;
 - developing support policy;
 - facilitating incident debriefs; and
 - providing input into training standards.
- Throughout the province, various communities have aided local Search and Rescue organizations by making surplus facilities available; providing funding for renovations; or new facilities.

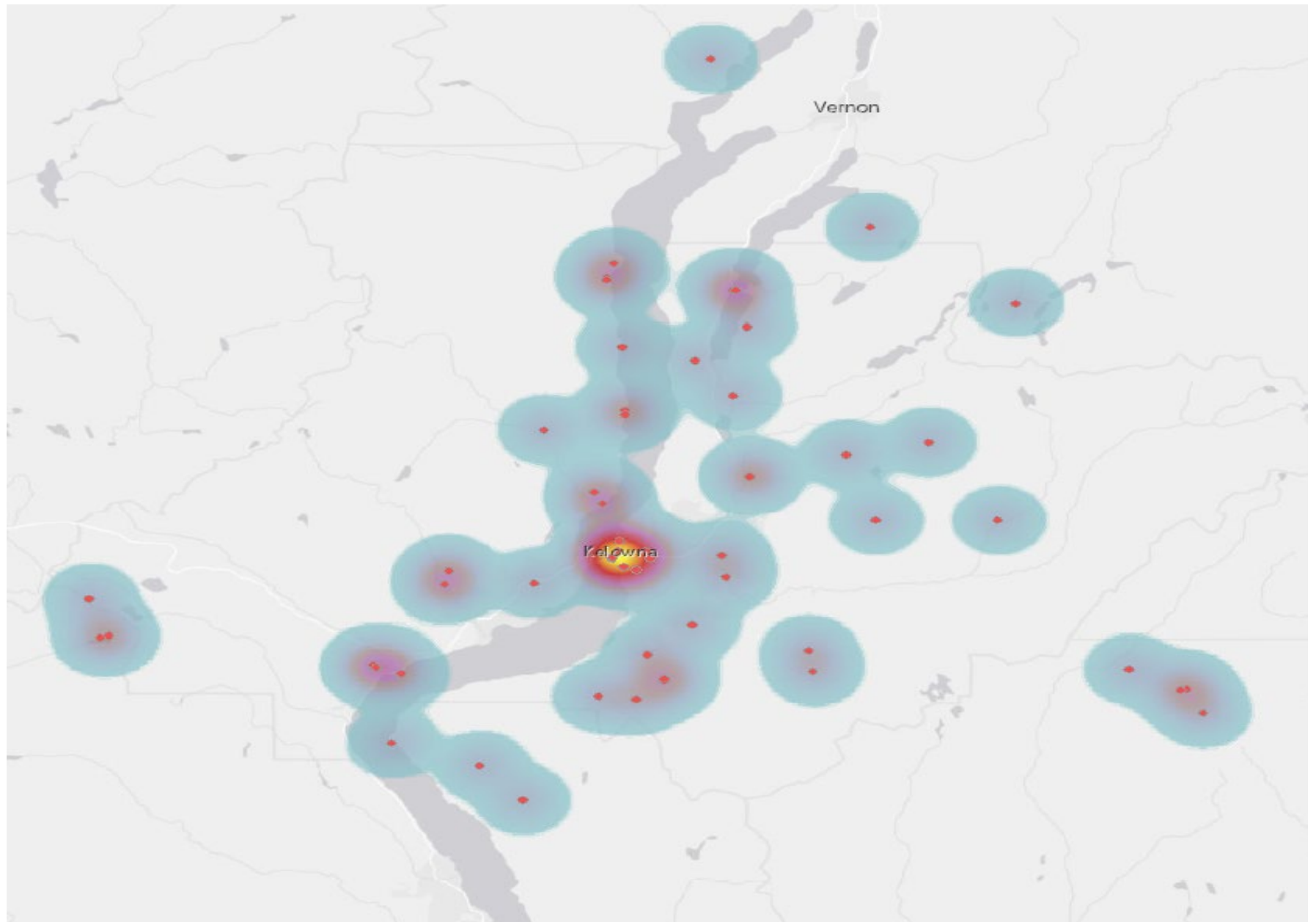
Framework for Interagency Cooperation

- 2014 Agreement outlining the roles of Regional Rescue Program and COSAR
- The primary goal of the memorandum was to ensure that the:
 - most suitable,
 - best equipped, and
 - trained resourcesresponded to an emergency as quickly as possible.

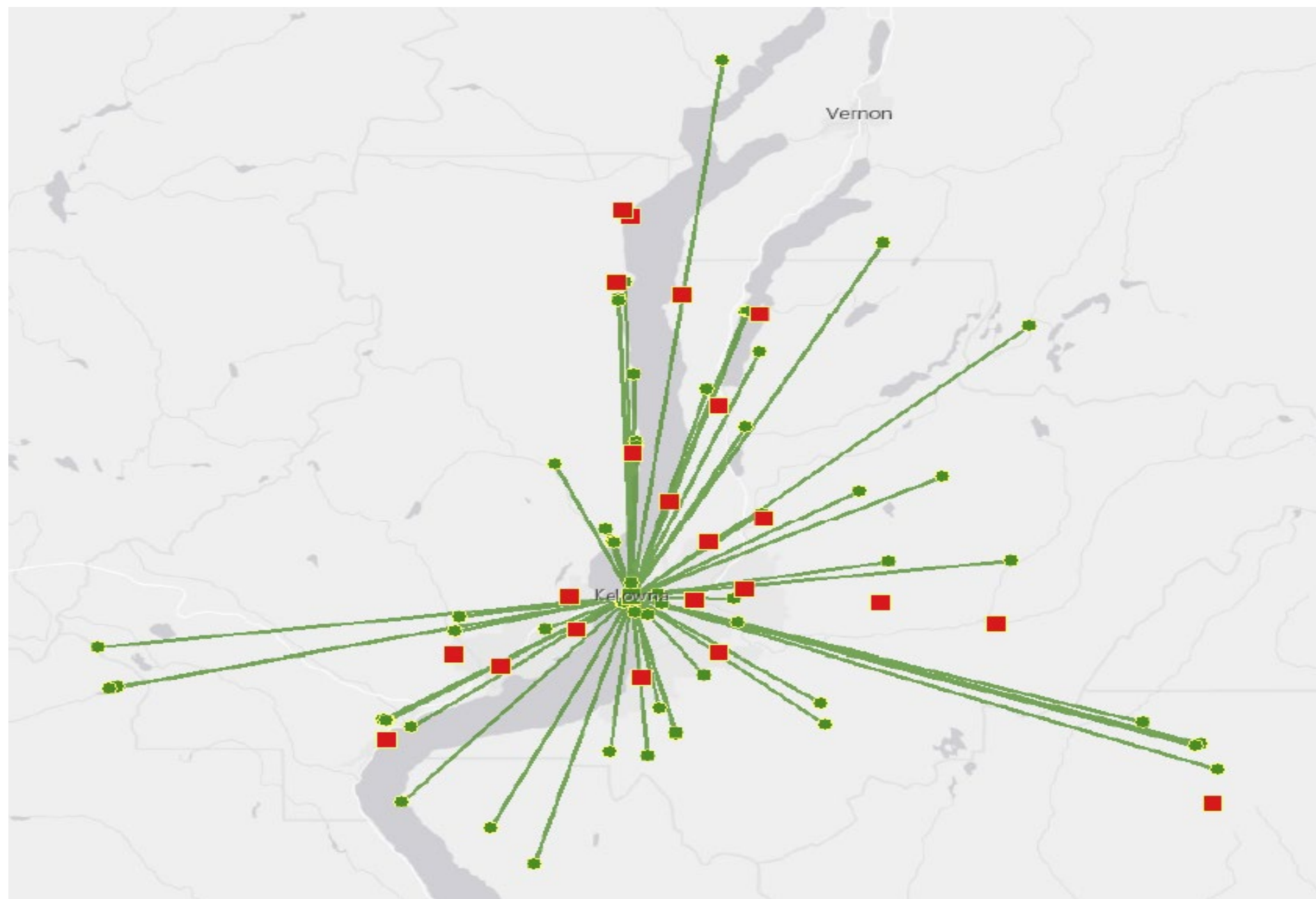
Regional Rescue Program = Rapid Response

COSAR = Sustained Response

GIS - Profile/Heat Map



GIS - Senario 2 Location



GIS – Response Profile

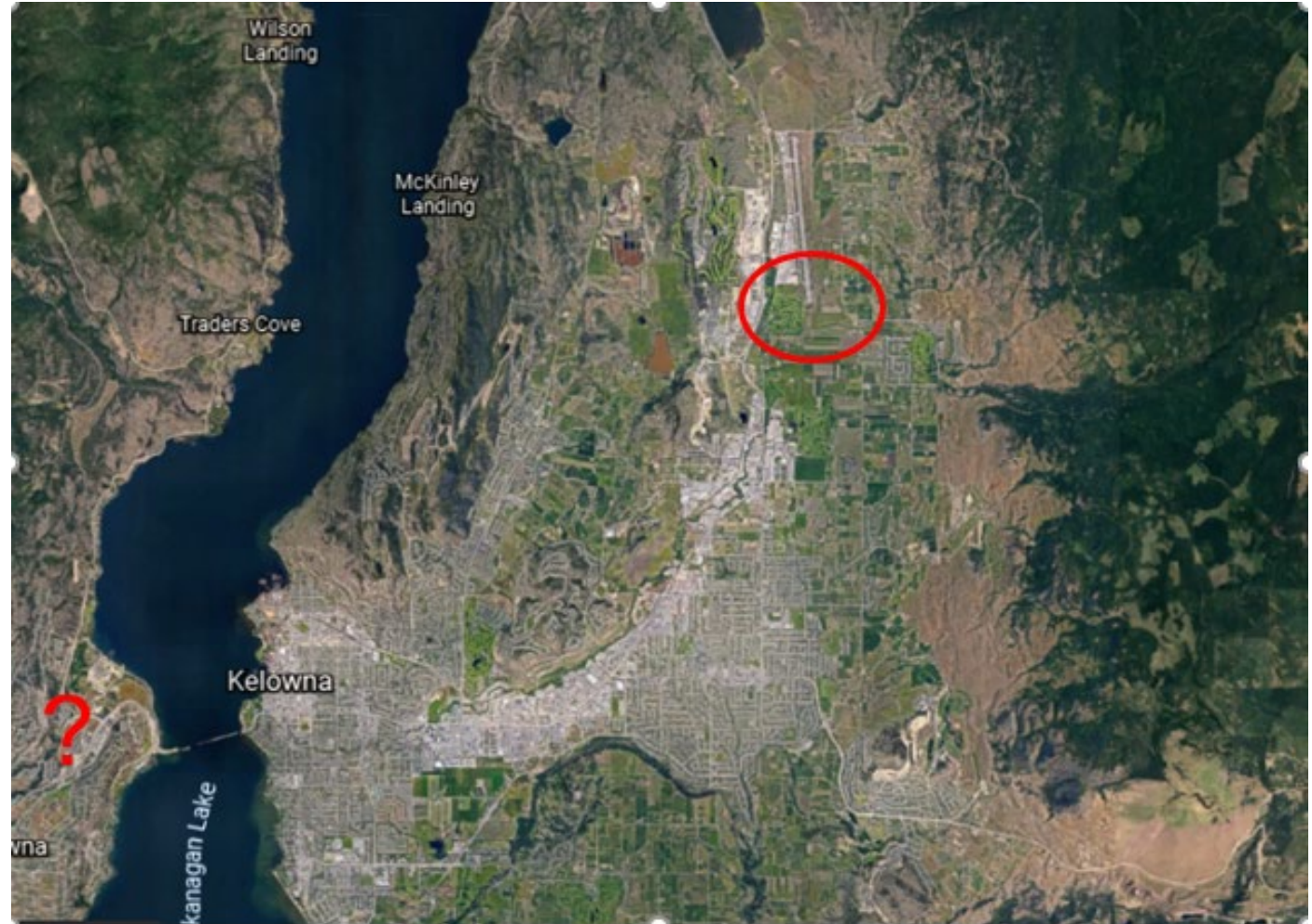
- RDCO-GIS Department reviewed COSAR - GIS response data
- 3 Response Scenarios tested:
 - Scenario 1 – two locations: Kelowna Central/Ellison Fire Hall
 - Scenario 2 – one location: Kelowna Central
 - Scenario 3 – three locations: Kelowna Central/Lake Country/Joe Rich
- Majority of COSAR members concentrated in Kelowna area.

Location Options - Current Site



Location Options – New Site

- **Light Industrial property**
 - 2021 Market Value = \$2,200,000/ac.
 - Cost Increasing in +10% per year minimum
 - Little or no inventory
- **Other Options**
 - Lease
 - Municipal Holdings



Refined Cost Estimate

- Based upon COSAR Needs Report
 - Bay Storage – 6000ft²
 - Office/Meeting – 3950ft²
 - Lot Size – 1.0 to 1.2 acre
- Estimated Building/Ancillary Cost
 - 2021 Construction Year - \$4,760,000
 - 2023 Construction Year - \$5,823,000
- Estimated Building/Ancillary/Land Cost
 - 2021 Construction Year - \$7,760,000
 - 2023 Construction Year - \$8,823,000
- Class “D” Cost Estimates (-10% to +25%)

Financial Considerations

- A COSAR building or land purchase does not meet the eligibility requirements for the Gas Tax Fund.
- Borrowing and debt servicing is allowed under the current Letters Patent.
- The project would require approval of the electors:
 - Via: Referendum – “Assent of the Electors”; or
 - Via: APP – Alternative Approval Process.
- Estimated annual debt servicing costs = 13 – 20% increase in expenses over 2021 Regional Rescue Budget.
- Increased cost to ‘Average Dwelling’ = \$4.27 to \$6.52

Next Steps

	Action	Timeline	Required/Optional
1.	Regional Board decision to assist COSAR	March/2022	Required
2.	Establishment of a Steering Committee or Working Group (12 months)	2022/2023	Optional
3.	Preliminary Site/Building Design (12 months)	2023	Required
4.	Borrowing Process (9 months)	2023	Required
5.	Alternative Approval Process Or Referendum	2023	Required
6.	Final Site Selection/Building Design (12 months)	2023/2024	Required
7.	Project Management (12-18 months)	2024/2025	Optional

Recommendations

- THAT the Regional Board support, in principle, contributing funding for an improved facility for the Central Okanagan Search and Rescue society;
- AND THAT the Regional Board direct staff to work with member municipalities, electoral areas, First Nations and the Central Okanagan Search and Rescue society to identify options for an improved search and rescue facility within the Central Okanagan.