
TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2019 December 30
FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 7400-30
SUBJECT: APPLICATION TO THE UBCM COMMUNITY EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS FUND 2020

PURPOSE: To seek Council's endorsement of a grant application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund on a flood mitigation planning study that will explore nature-based solutions along Byrne Creek.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council endorse the City's application to the UBCM for a grant under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, as outlined in section 3.0 of this report.
2. **THAT** Council forward a copy of this report to the Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for information.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund program has announced 2020 grants under the Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping & Flood Mitigation Planning funding stream. This funding can contribute up to 100% of the cost of eligible activities up to \$150,000. The Engineering Department has just initiated a project to study nature-based solutions for climate adaptation for Byrne Creek, as described in section 3.0 below, which is eligible for this funding opportunity.

Council endorsement of the City's application, indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management is required as part of the grant application. The deadline to apply for the grant was 2020 January 24. Due to the timing of Council meetings, UBCM staff advised that City staff could submit an application to the program by 2020 January 24 and seek Council endorsement of the project at a Council meeting later in January. Should Council decide not to endorse the grant application, the City can withdraw the grant application.

2.0 POLICY FRAMEWORK

The proposed project is aligned with the City of Burnaby's Corporate Strategic Plan by supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the Plan:

- A Safe Community
 - Emergency preparedness –
Enhance plans, procedures and services so that we are better prepared to respond to emergencies and are able to maintain City services
- A Connected Community
 - Partnership –
Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments
- A Healthy Community
 - Healthy environment –
Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability
- A Dynamic Community
 - Community development –
Manage change by balancing economic development with environmental protection and maintaining a sense of belonging

3.0 PROPOSED PROJECT – NATURE-BASED CLIMATE ADAPTATION STUDY OF BYRNE CREEK

Byrne Creek, from Marine Drive to the Fraser River, flows along the floodplain in the Big Bend area. According to the Province, dikes are required on both sides of this creek and the dikes will have to be raised in the near future to address climate change. With the natural environment along this fish-bearing creek, there is a need to explore alternative options for flood protection because local standards in British Columbia involve construction and maintenance of dikes that do not integrate well with nature.

The City has retained Deltares, a consultant from the Netherlands, which is a leading international research institute in nature-based solutions for flood management. Deltares, in partnership with the University of British Columbia and the Fraser Basin Council, will work with the City to explore solutions to provide flood safety for the Byrne Creek catchment while preserving the natural value of the creek. The project has been awarded at \$129,000, and this amount is fully eligible for the grant funding.

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This project involves system analysis, workshops to develop options, computer modelled simulations, and engagement with stakeholders and government agencies. The City's Parks Department and Planning Department will be key internal stakeholders, since the study has potential implications to future land use and park land decisions.

After the study is complete, the aim is to construct a pilot project along Byrne Creek. The City will be able to share knowledge gained from this study with other municipalities interested in nature-based solutions for climate adaptation.

4.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund program has announced 2020 grants of up to \$150,000 to assist communities across the province on flood mitigation planning.

It is recommended that Council endorse the City's application to the UBCM for this grant to study nature-based solutions for climate adaptation along Byrne Creek.

It is further recommended that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for information.

Should the City's application be successful, staff would undertake the overall grant management including financial accounting and completion of progress and final reports to UBCM.



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DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

KKW/ac

Copied to: City Manager
Director Finance