

Report to Council



Date: June 17, 2019
File: o600-20
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Well Regulation Bylaw No. 11770

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Utility Operations Manager dated June 17, 2019, with respect to the Well Regulation Bylaw No. 11770;

AND THAT Bylaw No. 11770, being Well Regulation Bylaw be forwarded to Council for reading consideration.

Purpose:

To enact a bylaw to provide authority of the City to require the closure of private-owned wells on properties that are connected to the City's drinking water system.

Background:

Groundwater in British Columbia (Provincial statements):

Groundwater, as a potable water source, is integral to the health and well-being of British Columbians. Groundwater is a critical component of community life, the provincial economy and maintenance of a healthy ecosystem.

Prior to the enactment of the Water Sustainability Act in 2014, groundwater in B.C. was not regulated. Over the past 10 years the provincial government has taken meaningful action to protect groundwater through legislation, regulation and strategic initiatives. These initiatives include: The Water Sustainability Act, a Groundwater Protection Regulation, the Drinking Water Protection Act and the Living Water Smart Plan.

The Province is committed to ensuring appropriate legislation and regulatory measures are in place to protect groundwater quality and quantity. Local governments play a pivotal role in providing safe, clean drinking water to their residents. This City bylaw has been drafted using a model provided by the Province.

The Well Regulation Bylaw gives the City the authority to require the closure of privately-owned wells on properties to be connected to the City's drinking water system. The closure of these private wells

reduces the potential for contamination of the City system, and in turn protects the health and safety of residents and the natural environment.

In addition to the health and safety benefits, the adoption of this Well Regulation Bylaw is a requirement of provincially-funded infrastructure grant programs. The Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, where the City successfully received funding approval for the SEKID/SOMID integration, is conditional on the City's adoption of the subject bylaw.

Internal Circulation:

Utility Services Manager
Utility Planning Manager
City Clerk
Project Manager - Water Integration Project
Financial Analyst

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Community Charter section 8.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements
Existing Policy
Financial/Budgetary Considerations
Personnel Implication
Communications Comments
Alternate Recommendation

Submitted by:

K. Van Vliet, P.Eng.
Utility Operations Manager

Approved for inclusion:



A. Newcombe, Division Director, Infrastructure

Attachment 1 - Well Regulation Bylaw

cc: City Clerk
Deputy City Manager
Divisional Director, Financial Services
Divisional Director, Infrastructure