

Report to Council



Date: May 4, 2020
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Essential Services Aid Agreement for Water Providers
Department: Risk Management, Security & Business Continuity

Recommendation:

THAT Council receive, for information, the report from the Risk Management Department dated May 4, 2020, regarding the Kelowna Water Supply Essential Services Agreement;

AND THAT Council approve the Kelowna Water Supply Essential Services Agreement and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute this agreement on behalf of the City of Kelowna.

Purpose:

To recommend for adoption the Kelowna Water Supply Essential Services Agreement; to improve regional emergency preparedness & in response to Ministerial Order No. Mo84 by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, pursuant to the B.C. Emergency Program Act.

Background:

On March 26th, 2020 the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General issued Ministerial Order Mo84 directing that local authorities exercise "best efforts" to enter into mutual aid agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions to ensure continuity of essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic that include: first responder, wastewater and drinking water services.

On April 27, 2020 Council approved an agreement pertaining to the essential services of water, wastewater and solid waste. Participants in that are: City of Kelowna, District of Peachland, District of Lake Country, City of West Kelowna, Regional District of Central Okanagan and Westbank First Nation.

First responder services are already captured within the *Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement* currently in effect for first responder and fire suppression services. Regional fire departments have already subscribed to mutual aid for the term of February 16, 2018 through to 2023.

Recognizing many Kelowna residents receive water from other local water providers staff from the City of Kelowna, Glenmore Ellison Improvement District, Rutland Waterworks District and Black Mountain Irrigation District worked collaboratively to develop a mutual aid agreement to help ensure drinking water is sustained for everyone during COVID-19 and beyond.

Discussion:

Emergency Management B.C. (EMBC) was consulted in the development of this format for aid agreements for essential services. EMBC confirmed that reasonable costs triggered by local governments requesting assistance from neighbouring partners in response to an emergency situation will be eligible for cost recovery through EMBC.

The agreement does not obligate any jurisdiction to provide support if they cannot or it would put their local service area at unreasonable risk.

Conclusion:

The use of aid agreements to bolster business continuity and ensure essential services are a best practice. The proposed 2-year term is expected to address the current crisis related to COVID-19. There will be an opportunity extend, refine or expand this type of agreement after it expires.

This aid agreement is consistent with the regional approach to emergency management that is core to the way we respond to emergencies in the Central Okanagan. Much of what is addressed within the proposed agreement could already be supported through the Emergency Operations Center in a crisis. However, absent an aid agreement it would trigger administrative work and policy questions that we have now pre-planned for. This agreement outlines how to make a request for support, what the financial implications are for both parties and what the terms of engagement are. It will allow for smoother and more rapid support to sustain essential services during a crisis, including pandemic.

Internal Circulation:

Deputy City Manager
HR & Community Safety/Kelowna Fire Department
Utility Services Department

Considerations applicable to this report:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

The Kelowna Water Supply Essential Services Agreement is a hybrid mutual aid agreement with cost recovery provisions for the Responding Party to be paid by the Requesting Party who then remits a claim through EMBC for eligible costs.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by:

L. Kayfish, Risk Manager

Approved for inclusion:



cc:

B. Reardon, CAO, Regional District Central Okanagan