

Attachment 1: Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

The following document summarizes stakeholder input received in March and April of 2022 regarding the development and application of a golf course irrigation rate for courses in Southeast Kelowna using the non-potable irrigation system.

- In the past, golf courses purchased irrigation rights through the South East Kelowna Irrigation District (SEKID). Stakeholders believe the proposed rate and process should take that precedent into consideration.
- Golf course operational decisions were based on the purchases and agreements to irrigate under the SEKID process. Stakeholders felt that based on those decisions previously made that it leaves the course with no cost-effective alternatives.
- Stakeholders understood why the City is proposing a golf course irrigation rate however, they would prefer to have irrigation rates left as it was with SEKID, at the farm rate.
- Some stakeholders felt that an irrigation rate would be more appropriate if it was applied to all irrigation customers as opposed to only three customers resulting in potentially larger increases for a small group.
- Stakeholders expressed concerns that a golf course irrigation rate would be subject to future increases which would again affect operational budgets.
- Stakeholders suggested linking the agriculture rate and the golf course irrigation rate by some multiplier that remains constant.
- Stakeholders felt that the proposed rate appears to target courses as inefficient users despite the fact that golf courses practice strict water conservation.
- Stakeholders said a golf course irrigation rate should take into consideration the economic benefit that golf courses bring to Kelowna in terms of employment and tourism.
- While stakeholders expressed concerns that an increase in irrigation costs would have a significant impact upon a golf course and its operations, they suggested a phased approach to implementation would help the courses adjust to this impact.
- Stakeholders said a golf course rate should take into considerations the differences in each course – a “one size fits all” approach is not fair due to size, operations and water use.