

Report to Council



Date: November 20, 2023
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Glenmore Landfill – Wildfire Recovery Works and Funding
Department: Utility Services

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives for information the report from the Utility Services Department dated November 20, 2023, with respect to a request for Disaster Financial Assistance to the Province of British Columbia.

AND THAT the 2023 Financial Plan be amended to include \$1,400,000 for the repair of infrastructure at the Glenmore Landfill due to damage from the Clifton–McKinley Fire, to be funded from the Reserve for Sanitary Landfill with expectation of up to 80% of eligible costs being reimbursed upon successful application of Provincial Disaster Financial Assistance.

Purpose:

To seek Council’s approval for an emergent funding request to complete post wildfire recovery works at the Glenmore Landfill.

Council Priority Alignment:

Climate & Environment

Background:

On Friday, August 18, 2023, the Clifton-McKinley wildfire entered Glenmore Landfill. Staff evacuated the site while BC Wildfire and Kelowna Fire Department (KFD) began initial firefighting efforts. The Landfill remained closed to waste receiving for a week after the fire began so that landfill and other City staff could work 24 hours a day alongside KFD, and contractors to fully extinguish fires and hot spots. After cleaning up the immediate debris and ensuring that the site could be safely operated, the landfill resumed partial operation on August 25, 2023, and full operations on September 2, 2023.

The onsite fires were a combination of surficial fires (surface and undergrowth), along with some waste and compost pile fires. Monitoring for smoldering and additional hot spots continued into late September and was managed by landfill personnel.

After the initial fire response, landfill personnel began inspecting site infrastructure. There was limited damage to buildings and equipment. Two damaged areas needed to be addressed. Approximately a third of the landfill gas system was damaged or destroyed in the fire. Some piles of demolition debris were ignited in the Clifton-McKinley Fire, and the resulting ash and equipment handling compacted the waste creating barriers to the normal flow of water to the leachate collection system. Relocating and completely covering this waste will open the water flow and mitigate potential for future fires.

Consultants were engaged to provide damage assessment reports and cost estimates to reconstruct the damaged landfill gas system and relocate the burnt waste that is acting as a leachate barrier.

The estimated costs for supplying and installation of the landfill gas wells, pipes, headers and associated infrastructure are \$900,000. This includes materials, labour, equipment, contingency, and consulting.

The estimated cost for the relocation and placement of the burnt waste is \$500,000. This includes labour, equipment, and contingency.

Discussion:

Restoration and reconstruction works are required to bring the landfill back into designed operations and maximize landfill gas recovery to prevent methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas.

The proposed amendment to the Financial Plan covers the cost of completing repairs. It is expected that Provincial Disaster Financial Assistance (application submitted on October 27, 2023) will reimburse up to 80 per cent of repair costs. Restoration would be funded from the Reserve for Sanitary Landfill, with the City paying the costs and then having the funds recovered.

Conclusion:

The Glenmore Landfill is requesting \$1,400,000 from the Reserve for Sanitary Landfill to complete remedial works and repair damages from the 2023 Clifton-McKinley wildfire. A Provincial Disaster Financial Assistance application has been submitted to recover up to 80 per cent of eligible costs.

Internal Circulation:

Financial Planning

Considerations applicable to this report:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Staff are recommending that the 2023 Financial Plan be amended to include \$1,400,000 for the repair of infrastructure at the Glenmore Landfill due to damage from the Clifton-McKinley Fire with funding from the Sanitary Landfill reserve. Staff are also recommending that upon approval and receipt of the Provincial Disaster Financial Assistance application, that the funds received, expected to be up to 80% of eligible costs, be contributed to the Sanitary Landfill reserve as reimbursement.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Communications Comments:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Consultation and Engagement:

Submitted by: S. Hoekstra, Manager, Landfill and Compost Operations

Approved for inclusion: M. Logan, Infrastructure General Manager

cc:

M. Antunes, Financial Planning Manager