

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Re: Sani-Dump Facility

THAT Council directs staff to explore the need for another sani-dump facility in Kelowna and to explore possible locations including potential partnership opportunities with the private sector, and report back to Council.

BACKGROUND:

Councillor Cannan indicated their intent to bring forward a resolution regarding a new sani-dump facility on June 3, 2024.

COUNCILLOR CANNAN COMMENTS

City of Kelowna has an incredible history of being a desirable tourist town. Kelowna's \$2.4 billion visitor economy is a major economic driver, attracting 2.2 million visitors annually, and generates 12,630 jobs, \$226 million in tax contributions, and \$540 million in direct spending at local businesses. We see visitors from across the world. Many of these visitors travel with Recreational Vehicles (RVs) or travel trailers to explore the surrounding areas. Also, several residents have contacted Council indicating that Kelowna has a critical shortage of publicly accessible Sani-dumps.

These visitors, as well many Kelowna residents who are RV owners, require the use of a Sani-dump at the conclusion of their trip. The present shortage of options can lead to long lines at the existing facilities in the Okanagan which may ultimately lead to fewer visits as this presents an additional logistical challenge to trip planning.

RDCO East Kelowna Director Kevin Kraft has indicated an increase in illegal back country dumping due to the shortage of Sani-dump facilities which is an environmental concern.

City Staff have indicated that previously the private sector has provided this service in combination with other facilities such as camping sites or fueling stations.

However, the only publicly accessible Sani-dump station in Kelowna at the present time is the Shell station located on Hwy 33 and Gerstmar Rd. Grateful for this service being offered by the private sector.

Unfortunately, this site was temporarily closed for a short period this Spring causing some real challenges for RV owners. In addition, RV owners have indicated that due to the restricted size of the property, lot configuration and high demand, at times it can be challenging to access the Sani-dump services.

The Husky (now Co-Op) at Sexsmith and Hwy 97 had previously provided Sani-dump services. However they have decided not to provide this service any longer. Canadian Tire on Leckie Rd had also previously

provided the Sani-dump service. City staff have approached Canadian Tire about the potential for a partnership for Sani-dump services in their new location. However, Canadian Tire has declined the offer.

The City of Vernon recently opened their public Sani-dump facility in April and operates on a user fee basis.

In 2001, the City of Chilliwack established an RV dump station at the Heritage Park Event Centre. Since then, the dump station has been a useful and convenient resource for local RV owners and visitors passing through the Chilliwack area. Since the site was developed, it has doubled in size to accommodate a growing user group. In addition, the City of Chilliwack has recently built a second location at 45160 Yale Road. As part of the growth and development of the new site, a \$10.00 discharge fee is charged by credit card through onsite kiosks. The \$10.00 fee helps the City maintain high-functioning facilities while also keeping in line with industry standards.

Alternatively, a city led partnership program could be explored which would encourage an existing business(es) to install a Sani-dump and/or reopen a previously closed station (i.e. Co-Op/Canadian Tire) could also be an effective option.

Presently, City staff have indicated that there are no plans in place for the development of such a facility, mainly due to the land intensity that it would require.

However, there now appears community interest for the city to reach out to explore potential options and opportunities such as partnering with the private sector. This may include a property owner that has a large parking area such as Walmart who promote RV parking in their lot or other businesses which may have land available. Some residents have suggested the city explore installing a Sani-dump service on city owned land.

Believe it would be prudent for Council to direct the City Infrastructure team to explore the need for another Sani-dump facility in Kelowna and to consider possible locations including potential partnership opportunities, and to report back to Council with their findings.

Date: June 24, 2024