

DATE: March 2, 2015 **FILE:** 5360-03

TO: Chair and Directors
Comox Valley Regional District (Comox Strathcona waste management) board

FROM: Debra Oakman, CMA
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: Federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund grant application – Comox Valley engineered landfill

Purpose

To obtain approval from the board for submission of a grant application for the Comox Valley engineered landfill project under the Federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF).

Policy analysis

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board policy requires board approval to submit applications for senior government grant funding. The policy states that the appropriate committee shall approve any employment or grant program.

Applications to the Federal Gas Tax SPF fund require a board resolution indicating support for the application as part of required submittals.

At the September 18th, 2014 board meeting the board approved the following motions:

THAT a loan authorization bylaw be authorized by the Comox Strathcona waste management board for Comox Strathcona solid waste management plan closures of existing regional landfills at Campbell River and Comox Valley facilities as well as the expanded new regional landfill at the Comox Valley facility;

AND FURTHER THAT the loan authorization bylaw be for an amount of \$45,295,000 with the debt to be repaid over a 20 year term;

Executive summary

The Federal Gas Tax Fund Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) provides funding for strategic investments that are large in scale and regional in impact. Solid waste projects are eligible and there is up to 100% funding of net eligible costs including the design and construction of approved projects.

Over the first five years there is approximately \$145 million in the SPF pool and it is anticipated there will be a minimum of two intakes. The application deadline for the current intake is April 15, 2015. Funding allocations and decisions will be made by the Gas Tax Management Committee. Eligible solid waste projects include infrastructure that supports solid waste management systems including the collection, diversion and disposal of recyclables, compostable materials and garbage.

The Comox Valley engineered landfill project meets required criteria for SPF eligibility including providing measurable economic benefit, yielding environmental benefits as well as providing community health benefits by greatly reducing negative environmental impacts associated with waste disposal. Further criteria are met by the scope of the project being large in relation to the size of the

community it serves and the jurisdictional collaboration and coordination required for it to succeed, as well as the benefits the project will have to multiple communities through two regional districts. Criteria related to innovation may also be met depending on future determinations regarding landfill gas utilization.

The budgeted capital expenditure for the Comox Valley engineered landfill in 2017 is \$20,700,000. Through an application under the SPF fund the CVRD will seek funding towards this project. As part of the process the amount requested will be determined during the development of the grant application.

Recommendation from the chief administrative officer:

THAT an application be submitted to the Federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund for the Comox Valley engineered landfill.

Respectfully:

D. Oakman

Debra Oakman, CMA
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by:

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