



**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022**

SUBJECT Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning – Capital Region Heat Vulnerability Dashboard Project

ISSUE SUMMARY

A Capital Regional District (CRD) Board resolution is required for a grant application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) - Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning stream for a regional heat vulnerability dashboard project.

BACKGROUND

Summer 2021 highlighted the region’s vulnerability to extreme heat events, and the consequences of not being adequately informed and prepared. There is a need to better understand the risk extreme heat poses to the region, to inform a risk-based approach to climate adaptation and emergency response planning. The proposed project involves the creation of a heat vulnerability mapping dashboard for the capital region, in order to better understand the locations of both populations and buildings that should be prioritized when planning to address future extreme heat events, now and in the future. This project will build upon existing data platforms available through the City of Victoria, and focus on collecting additional localized data that is regionally relevant and specific to build a more comprehensive understanding of the risks extreme heat poses to the region. This data will then be used to develop a dashboard to support education and local planning efforts. It’s anticipated that this project will complement existing heat response planning efforts, including the province’s recently announced early BC Heat Alert and Response System.

The UBCM CEPF is a suite of funding streams intended to support local governments, First Nations and communities to enhance resilience in responding to emergencies. Announced in May 2022, a new funding stream was made available to support extreme heat risk mapping, assessments, and planning activities. This stream will contribute up to 100% of eligible activities to a maximum of \$30,000 per applicant. Additional funding requests from two or more applicants (i.e., co-applicants) may be submitted as a single application for eligible, collaborative, regional projects. The CRD Climate Action service proposes to manage a regional application. As the primary applicant, a Board resolution is required articulating support for the project, and approval to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on behalf of all co-applicants. The grant is due June 24, 2022, with resolutions following.

Approved applicants are required to grant the Province of British Columbia free and clear access and distribution rights to any and all of the spatial data products acquired/produced using CEPF funding.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the CRD Board support an application to the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning Grant to support the CRD as the regional lead (primary applicant) for the Capital Region Heat Vulnerability Dashboard Project, and direct staff to provide for overall grant management, including apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding.

Alternative 2

That staff be directed to not apply to the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning Grant Program.

IMPLICATIONS

Intergovernmental Implications

Staff are working with local governments, electoral area staff and First Nations through the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group, the Local Government Emergency Programs Advisory Committee, and the Regional Emergency Management Partnership to develop and execute this project. Outputs of this project will directly support local governments, First Nations, Island Health and community agencies, in future risk assessments, extreme heat response planning, and climate adaptation planning activities.

The CRD will be the primary applicant. It is anticipated that the District of Saanich, City of Victoria, City of Langford, and Town of Sidney will be co-applicants which also require complimentary council resolutions.

Financial Implications

The total final grant application will be between \$120,000 and \$150,000. Additional funding may be allocated to WSÁNEĆ First Nation partners if they also decide to be a co-applicant under this regional application. The grant would not impact core Climate Action service budgets.

Service Delivery Implications

The CRD Climate Action service will be responsible for overall grant and project management. This can be accommodated under core services in late 2022 and 2023.

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

This project aligns with the CRD Climate Action Strategy, Action 2-4 to expand data collection and mapping efforts to identify vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change.

CONCLUSION

CRD staff are seeking approval to pursue a Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant application under the Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning stream to undertake the project and provide overall grant management to develop a heat vulnerability dashboard for the capital region.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the CRD Board support an application to the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning Grant to support the CRD as the regional lead (primary applicant) for the Capital Region Heat Vulnerability Dashboard Project, and direct staff to provide for overall grant management, including apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding.

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