

**REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020**

SUBJECT **Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan – 2020 Progress Report**

ISSUE SUMMARY

This report is an assessment of progress made on the Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Strategic Plan (the Plan) for Regional Water Supply was renewed in 2017 following public and Water Advisory Committee engagement and approved by the Regional Water Supply Commission (Commission) and the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board in the Fall of 2017. The current plan sets out a 30 year planning horizon to 2050. The Plan centers around three overarching commitments, with strategic priorities and actions to ensure the commitments are upheld over the planning period.

The strategic priorities are based on the need to mitigate or adapt to changing factors affecting the service, while ensuring achievement of long term commitments remains the first priority. The actions focus on tactics including initiatives, projects or studies intended to inform or meet near term objectives and support the strategic priorities. It is expected that the strategic priorities would be reviewed and updated every 5 to 10 years and the actions would be planned, budgeted, and implemented (subject to Commission and Board approval) over the five years following approval of the plan (2018 – 2022).

This report provides a ‘mid-term’ progress report. Good progress is being made on the Plan’s strategic priorities and associated actions, which are summarized in Appendix A. Staff continue to define scope and budget for upcoming actions and initiatives, which are reflected in the annual service plan and budget. Staff also regularly adjust CRD work effort and capacity to achieve progress on the Plan while balancing day-to-day system operations and service delivery and the CRD’s water supply commitments. The Plan’s direction and implementation continue to align with the CRD Board’s Community Need Summary Report which is part of the overall corporate and financial planning process.

It is anticipated that a review of the 2023 – 2027 strategic priorities and actions will be conducted in the Fall of 2022.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan – 2020 Progress Report be received for information and that the strategic priorities and actions planned in 2021-2022 that deliver on the Plan be confirmed.

Alternative 2

That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan – 2020 Progress Report be received for information, and that the strategic priorities and actions planned in 2021-2022 that deliver on the Plan be referred back to staff to be amended as directed by the Commission.

IMPLICATIONS

Any significant change in strategic direction will have to be addressed and reflected through the 2021-2025 service and financial planning process, but minor adjustments to actions and initiatives will be managed operationally within the delegated authority of staff, provided they do not have material impacts on service plans and are within the overall approved budget. Likewise, staff can modify the scope of and/or accelerate/decelerate effort on in-stream or planned actions in response to changing conditions, provided they are within the approved budget, as has been the case with the COVID-19 pandemic impacts.

CONCLUSION

In 2017, the CRD set out a 30 year plan of renewed commitments, strategic priorities and actions in a *Strategic Plan for Regional Water Supply*. After three years of working under this Plan, good progress has been made on many of the actions and strategic priorities. Staff continue to define scope and budget for upcoming actions and initiatives, which are for the most part, reflected in the annual and five year financial plans.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan – 2020 Progress Report be received for information and that the strategic priorities and actions planned in 2021-2022 that deliver on the Plan be confirmed.

Submitted by:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., General Manager, Integrated Water Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan Progress Report Dashboard