



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** June 23, 2021
From: Milton Chan, P.Eng.
 Director, Engineering **File:** 10-6060-01/2021-Vol
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Re: **Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy Communications Plan**

Staff Recommendation

1. That the staff report titled “Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy Communications Plan”, dated June 23, 2021, from the Director, Engineering, be endorsed; and
2. That letters be sent to the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy Leadership Committee members, local MPs and MLAs, appropriate ministers, deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers to communicate Richmond’s position on regional flood protection management.

Milton Chan, P.Eng.
 Director, Engineering
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REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Roads & Construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol Unit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

At the March 16, 2021 Public Works and Transportation Committee Meeting, the following motion was adopted:

- (1) *That the staff report titled "Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy Update", dated February 19, 2021, from the Director, Engineering, be received for information; and*
- (2) *That staff prepare options and recommendations for further communications to the various levels of government that highlight the City's concerns, and report back.*

This report responds to this motion and outlines a recommended communications plan communicating the City's position on regional flood protection management, as endorsed by Council at the January 27, 2020 Regular Council Meeting and further discussed at the March 16, 2021 Public Works and Transportation Committee Meeting.

This report supports the following strategies within Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022:

Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.

1.2 Future-proof and maintain city infrastructure to keep the community safe.

1.3 Ensure Richmond is prepared for emergencies, both human-made and natural disasters.

Strategy #2 A Sustainable and Environmentally Conscious City:

Environmentally conscious decision-making that demonstrates leadership in implementing innovative, sustainable practices and supports the City's unique biodiversity and island ecology.

2.1 Continued leadership in addressing climate change and promoting circular economic principles.

Strategy #5 Sound Financial Management:

Accountable, transparent, and responsible financial management that supports the needs of the community into the future.

5.4 Work cooperatively and respectfully with all levels of government and stakeholders while advocating for the best interests of Richmond.

Analysis

Council endorsed the City's position on regional flood protection management at the January 27, 2020 Regular Council meeting, as follows:

- a. That flood protection continue to be evaluated and managed at the local government level, currently through the Diking Authority model, with additional support from senior levels of government;
- b. That dedicated funding for flood protection be established at the Provincial and Federal level, to be used by Diking Authorities, which include local governments, for flood management projects; and
- c. That the Province require Diking Authorities, which include local governments, to develop and maintain flood risk management plans and strategies for their respective areas so that regional objectives are met.

On February 11, 2020, the General Manager, Engineering & Public Works circulated a letter regarding the City's position on regional flood protection management to the local diking authorities, Metro Vancouver, Fraser Basin Council, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Deputy Minister and the Assistant Deputy Minister.

Additionally, staff continue to communicate the City's position at regional and inter-governmental meetings on an on-going basis through the Fraser Basin Council Seismic Advisory Committee, Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy Advisory Committee, and directly to other local diking authorities.

To respond to the most recent motion at the March 16, 2021 Public Works and Transportation Committee meeting and further communicate the City's position on regional flood protection management to the appropriate levels of government, staff recommend the strategy as outlined below.

Leadership Committee

The Fraser Basin Council established a Leadership Committee to provide oversight and strategic guidance on governance and funding aspects of the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy (LMFMS). This committee is currently comprised of 13 members, as identified below. The City will draft a letter to each member soliciting support and offer to present Richmond's flood protection management position to the leadership committee as a whole.

1. Andrew Hannan, Regional Director, Public Safety Canada
2. Sonia Talwar, Regional Director, Natural Resources Canada
3. Tara Richards, Deputy Minister, EMBC
4. Craig Sutherland, Assistant Deputy Minister, FLNRORD
5. Sav Dhaliwal, Chair, Metro Vancouver
6. Jason Lum, Chair, FVRD
7. David Hocking, Director, Metro Vancouver

8. Craig Hodge, Director, Metro Vancouver
9. Brenda Falk, Director, FVRD
10. Tyrone McNeil, Tribal Chief, Sto:lo Tribal Council
11. Harley Chappel, Chief, Semiahmoo First Nation
12. Murray Ned, Councillor, Sumas First Nation
13. Robin Silvester, Chair, Greater Vancouver Gateway Council and President/CEO for Port of Vancouver

Local Government

In order to create a larger coalition, the City will continue to solicit support from other local governments with a similar regional flood protection management position as Richmond. This includes presenting at the following Metro Vancouver committees to gain support:

- Liquid Waste Committee;
- Finance and Inter-Government Committee;
- Regional Engineers Advisory Committee; and
- Regional Administrative Advisory Committee.

Provincial Government

In order to communicate our position provincially, the City will contact Richmond MLA's Kelly Greene, Amen Singh, Teresa Wat, and Henry Yao by letter and request a formal meeting. The City will provide them with an understanding and awareness of Richmond's position on regional flood protection management.

In addition, the City will draft a letter to each Minister, Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister that is impacted by the LMFMS proposed recommendations. This letter will request a formal meeting to communicate Richmond's position on regional flood management. The ministries impacted by the LMFMS governance and funding recommendations include:

- Environment and Climate Change Strategy;
- Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development;
- Public Safety and Solicitor General; and
- Transportation and Infrastructure.

Better understanding of the impacts of the LMFMS recommendations on future provincial grants will come from further conversations with the Union of BC Municipalities and Emergency Management BC.

Federal Government

In order to communicate the City's position federally, the City will contact the Honourable Alice Wong and MP Kenny Chiu by letter and request a formal meeting. The City will provide them with an understanding and awareness of Richmond's position on regional flood protection management.

Better understanding of the impacts of the LMFMS recommendations on future federal grants will come from further conversations with the National Disaster Mitigation Program and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Summary

The Fraser Basin Council extended the comment deadline on Draft 1 of the LMFMS from March 29 to May 31. Richmond's comments on Draft 1 were received by the Fraser Basin Council.

The Fraser Basin Council has advised that Draft 2 is expected to be circulated in the Fall of 2021, with public engagement to follow.

As discussed in the staff report titled "Regional Flood Protection Management and Governance", dated December 13, 2019, and in the staff report titled "Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy Update", dated February 19, 2021, it is necessary that the City continue to advance on advocating for Richmond's position on regional flood protection management to the appropriate levels of government.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Under the existing governance structure, the City of Richmond has established one of the most advanced flood protection programs in the region. Adoption of a provincially-mandated regional entity would impact flood protection planning and implementation. The City's position on regional flood protection is that it should remain focused on being managed and evaluated at the local level, with support from senior government. Staff recommend that the City continues to advance on advocating for Richmond's position on regional flood protection management to the appropriate levels of government as outlined in this report.



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