



News information

For immediate release
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Summerland Council Considers RDOS Proposal for Supplying Water to Faulder a Win-Win Situation

Summerland District Council has approved in principle a proposal to provide residents of Faulder with treated domestic water from the Summerland water treatment and distribution system, as requested by the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS).

Summerland and the RDOS will be holding an open house in early April to provide information, answer questions, and to receive feedback that can be considered prior to finalizing plans to connect Faulder to the Summerland water system. Details will be provided on the District of Summerland and RDOS websites and also through ads in local papers.

The Faulder community west of Summerland requires an alternative source of domestic water in the near future. This is because the aquifer that supplies water to the community is inexplicably declining, making its recovery uncertain. Also, the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality have recently changed, and the water quality in Faulder does not meet these new guidelines.

Over the past few months, the District of Summerland has been carefully exploring this opportunity with the RDOS in order to clarify details related to infrastructure requirements, funding, and benefits to Summerland.

Summerland Mayor Janice Perrino says that "At this point, Council views the proposal as a win-win situation for all involved. It supplies water to Faulder at no cost to Summerland, and it provides funds for the next stage of our long term plan for separating irrigation water from domestic water."

Michael Brydon, Director for RDOS Electoral Area 'F', agrees the deal is a win-win: "Faulder residents are currently looking at three options for improving the quality and quantity of their drinking water. However, buying treated water from Summerland appears to make the most sense for everyone."

Benefits to Summerland include:

- There would be no cost to Summerland residents as all costs will be borne by the RDOS.
- Summerland's ability to supply water to its residents would not be affected.
- Summerland will be better able to protect and sustain their valuable water resource.
- The RDOS would pay a one-time connection fee to Summerland, amounting to approximately \$320,000. These funds would be used to reduce the irrigation demands on Summerland's water treatment plant, thereby freeing up more treated water for domestic use.

For more information...

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