



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

### INFORMATION RELEASE

March 27, 2017

#### **Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen receives BC Clean Water/Wastewater Grant for Naramata Water System**

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The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) has received a BC Clean Water/Wastewater Fund (CWWF) grant from the Federal and Provincial governments. This project is just one of five projects awarded to the Regional District out of the 144 projects in BC announced on March 17, 2017. The BC Clean Water/Wastewater Program is based on 50% funding from Canada, 33% funding from BC and the remaining 17% will come from the recipients of the service.

**Naramata Water System Upgrade** – The RDOS will receive \$3,680,802 for the replacement of approximately 5km of watermain underground infrastructure in Naramata; along with the appropriate valves, hydrants and rehabilitation of roads impacted by project construction. Design of the project is well underway and construction will be finished prior to March 31, 2018.

Initially constructed in the 1950's, about 60% of the Naramata system is still constructed of Asbestos Cement pipe, which has experienced significant deterioration over the years. This replacement project will decrease water breaks and leakage and reduce the unplanned system shut-downs by extending the life of the system and contributing to water conservation in a drought-prone section of the province.

“Canada and British Columbia launched the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (Fund) in September 2016 to help accelerate the rehabilitation of water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure”, states MP Richard Cannings. “The Government of Canada will contribute \$225.1M to a BC program primarily focused on meeting immediate priorities for clean water and wastewater to support a cleaner and healthier environment. I’m very pleased this federal contribution will assist locally in the community of Naramata.” said Cannings.

“Safe and reliable drinking water and wastewater systems are essential infrastructure for all communities in our province,” said Dan Ashton, MLA Penticton. “To be able to partner with Canada and the Regional District to ensure clean water for citizens in Naramata is a critical investment in essential services by the province. The 144 Clean Water/Wastewater projects recently announced will create close to 4,000 direct and indirect jobs that will benefit families across British Columbia, but on another level, good infrastructure is so very important in the South Okanagan where water conservation is becoming increasingly critical.”

“The RDOS is grateful for the contributions from our federal and provincial partners in helping protect our most valued asset – water,” said Chair Karla Kozakevich. “The \$3.69M for the Naramata Water System infrastructure is very significant and we sincerely appreciate this investment in our future.”



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