

Flood Protection Ultimate Recipient Grant Agreement

Alberta Community Resilience Program Provincial Funding

Recommendation

That an ultimate recipient grant agreement, between the City and EPCOR, for an amount not to exceed a total of \$21,604,946.12, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the April 12, 2021, Financial and Corporate Services report FCS00445, be approved, and that the grant agreement be in form and content acceptable to the City Manager.

Executive Summary

Administration is seeking approval to enter into an Ultimate Recipient Grant Agreement with EPCOR for their expenses related to various flood mitigation projects in Edmonton. Approval is needed to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement, as the dollar value exceeds the City Manager's delegated authority.

Report

Under the Provincial Alberta Community Resilience Program the Provincial Flood Protection Grant Agreement with the City of Edmonton identified but did not include a direct reference to EPCOR as the ultimate recipient of the grant funding, unlike the Federal Grant Agreement with the City. Therefore, this flow through ultimate recipient grant agreement could not be considered ancillary to the Provincial Flood Protection Grant Agreement. Approval is needed to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement, as the dollar value exceeds delegated authorities. The basic terms of the proposed grant agreement are listed in Attachment 1.

The 2021 Alberta Community Resilience Program grant amending agreement for the flood mitigation program is \$12,097,817.00. The Alberta Community Resilience Program grant funding agreement, including any amending agreements, for the Malcolm Tweddle and Edith Rogers dry ponds is approximately \$6,270,000.00, plus remaining Alberta Community Resilience Program grant funding from previous dry pond projects of \$3,237,129.12. These Alberta Community Resilience Program grant agreements with the provincial government need to flow through to EPCOR, the ultimate recipient.

The creation of new two-cell dry ponds in the open space of Malcolm Tweddle and Edith Rogers schools would help mitigate flooding in adjacent areas in the community. The desired level of performance is to, in conjunction with the rest of the dry ponds projects, protect 5,200 homes city wide from street flooding and sewer backups caused by 1:100 year heavy rain events.

The Alberta Community Resilience Program Riverine and Urban Buffer Mitigation project aims to reduce the risk of flooding to the EPCOR's two water treatment plants, Rossdale and E.L. Smith, to protect the supply of clean drinking water to over 1.2 million people in Edmonton and over 70 surrounding communities. During a flood event rivaling or exceeding the 1:180 year flood event that struck Edmonton in June 1915, both water treatment plants would be flooded and contaminated by flood water. If this were to happen, the water treatment plants would be unable to produce potable water, a boil water order would remain in force for months after a flood while the water treatment plants are cleaned and repaired and the entire distribution and transmission network is flushed. Without the planned projects, both water treatment plants would be severely damaged in a 1:180 year flood event.

The EPCOR Rossdale and E.L. Smith water treatment plant projects include:

- Relocating instrumentation, electrical and mechanical equipment above the predicted flood elevation
- Ensuring river flood water will not back up into the treatment plants through underground piping
- Installing landscaped flood protection berms

These projects support City Council's ConnectEdmonton goal of Climate Resilience, specifically Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan.

Budget

Prior to drainage utility transfer to EPCOR (effective September 1, 2017) there were capital profiles for flood protection projects. Presently, the assets and projects are managed by EPCOR. The Alberta Community Resilience Program grant funding will flow through the City of Edmonton to EPCOR. There is no impact on the tax levy with respect to these projects.

Public Engagement

The City has not undertaken any public engagement specific to this report. The report was informed by existing plans and procedures. Administration has engaged with the Province of Alberta and EPCOR in order to facilitate these projects.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome(s): Edmonton is an environmentally sustainable and resilient city			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
The Provincial grant funding will ensure that the EPCOR projects are completed and the city has infrastructure in place to improve flood resiliency. Ongoing monitoring and reporting of EPCOR utility services regulated by City Council.	Annual and periodic reporting of utility operations	Annual Progress Report - Water, Wastewater, Drainage Annual Operational Plan	Annual Progress Report - Water, Wastewater, Drainage Annual Operational Plan

Risk Assessment

Risk Element	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Score (with current mitigations)	Current Mitigations	Potential Future Mitigations
If Recommendation Is Approved						
Financial	The Provincial Grant money is not used for the specified projects	2 - Unlikely	3 - Major	6 - Low	Funds are only distributed in accordance with the Provincial Grant requirements	
If Recommendation Is Not Approved						
Financial	The projects can only proceed if the recommendation is passed in order for the Provincial grant Funding to flow to EPCOR	2 - Unlikely	3 - Major	6 - Low		

Natural Disasters	Water supply could be at risk if water treatment plants cannot produce water during a 1:180 year, or greater, flood event	3 - possible	4 - Severe	12 - medium		Relocating instrumentation, electrical and mechanical equipment above the predicted flood elevation at the water treatment plants
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Attachments

1. Agreement Term Sheet

Others Reviewing this Report

- G. Cebryk, Deputy City Manager, City Operations
- S. McCabe, Deputy City Manager, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development
- A. Laughlin, Deputy City Manager, Integrated Infrastructure Services
- K. Fallis-Howell, Acting City Solicitor