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**CITY OF KELOWNA**

**MEMORANDUM**

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**Date:** September 12, 2006

**File No.:** 5225-03

**To:** City Manager

**From:** Environment & Solid Waste Manager

**Subject:** Mission Creek Habitat Restoration Plan

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council endorses the Mission Creek Habitat Restoration Plan;

AND THAT Council supports the plan subject to required funding in partnership with external agencies and local community groups;

AND FURTHER THAT Council has staff develop the framework strategy for plan implementation and funding.

**BACKGROUND:**

In March 2003 the Mission Creek Habitat Restoration Feasibility Plan was completed for the Ministry of Environment in Penticton.

The feasibility plan details the rationale for undertaking restoration in Mission Creek based on its relative contribution to Okanagan Lake fish production. The plan implementation involves the cooperation and commitment from all levels of government as well as local community groups.

It is envisioned that a strategic coalition of these committed participants would oversee and champion the long term restoration of Mission Creek.

The plan could be a multi year plan lasting up to 50 years and would include the following works outlined in the feasibility:

- Setback dykes (Gordon Drive to Regional Park)
- Meandering channel construction with riffle pool sequences (KLO and Regional Park)
- Riffle structures, sediment traps and meandering channel (Regional Park and East Kelowna Rd.)

The restoration objectives for these priority works are:

1. to maintain flood protection up to the design flow of 110cms.
2. to maintain existing drainage networks and water withdrawal off-takes
3. to maintain the quantity and quality of spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids
4. to improve the stability of salmonid spawning substrates.
5. to improve aesthetics and wildlife habitat
6. to increase and maintain biodiversity within the river corridor
7. to re-establish some of the physical structure, and hydraulic and geomorphic processes that are characteristic of natural rivers.

Since this plan was completed, an agreement between Stewardship and Water Management Divisions of the Ministry of Environment characterizes the works and plan for the benefits of both flood protection and habitat restoration.

To date the City of Kelowna and MOE have met with the Friends of Mission Creek to introduce the plan and have received their support in principle (attach 1). The City and Ministry also worked together to secure the Casorso lands that include the land under the dyke on the West side of Mission Creek. That land purchase was funded from HCTF.

This request is for Council's support for a strategy for implementation and funding of works and funding support for a partnership on an ongoing basis.

It is anticipated it will cost the City \$25,000 to develop the strategy for implementation and another \$150,000 for selected priority projects in 2007. A budget request will be submitted.

With a long term commitment the sustainability of the most important ecosystem next to Okanagan Lake can become a goal for Kelowna and a legacy for future generations.

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Mark Watt, Environment and Solid Waste Manager



Approved for inclusion:  
John Vos  
Director of Works & Utilities

Cc: Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services  
Water & Drainage Division  
Lands and Real Estate Division  
Long Range Planning  
RDCO Planning & Development Services  
MOE Fisheries Section (Penticton)