



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

# Media Release

Nelson, BC  
*For Immediate Release*

June 19, 2017

## Balfour Water Users Approve Borrowing

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On June 17th the RDCK sought approval from electors in the Balfour Water System Area via assent voting (referendum) to determine if they support the RDCK borrowing \$583,323 to proceed with the Balfour Water System Upgrade and Universal Metering Project, which has an estimated total cost of \$3,397,000. The scope of the project includes construction of a new reservoir, installation of universal metering, establishing standby power, replacement of the upper zone pump station, upgrading water lines and providing hydrant infill.

The balance of costs would come from the \$2.8 million Clean Water and Wastewater Fund grant the RDCK received for the project.

A total of 174 eligible constituents cast their vote during the advance poll on June 7th, mail-in ballot, or general vote on June 17th. Referendum results indicate that 87.9% of voters are in support of the borrowing, with 12.1% opposing it.

Following the result, Ramona Faust, Electoral Area E Director voiced that “I am very pleased that the majority of water system participants in Balfour have chosen to accept the generosity of the provincial and federal governments under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund grant program and have voted in favour of borrowing and contributing 17% of overall project costs. This will provide staff with the mandate to move swiftly to begin and carry out the project. Thank you to RDCK staff for their support of Balfour residents.”

General Manager of Environmental Services, Uli Wolf notes that “with the demonstrated support of the community we can now move forward in providing Balfour residents with a unique opportunity to catch up on urgent infrastructure replacement backlog with a relatively small financial commitment. This project is a must in order to achieve rate stability for the water system over the long term.”

Project work will commence immediately and under the granting agency requirements, all project components must be completed in their entirety by the extended deadline of March 31, 2019.

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While this may have been a lengthy and difficult process at times, it proved beneficial in that it provided the opportunity for community members to garner a better understanding of the tremendous and complex infrastructure needs facing the water system.

The RDCK would like to thank the Community Advisory Committee and the Balfour water users for their attendance at the past Open House, Public Meeting, and their continued inquiries made to staff regarding project components and details. This project is for, and will benefit all Balfour water users and we welcome your ongoing involvement, interest and commitment to improving the water system.

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**Media enquiries:**

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