

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Authorize staff to provide interim mutual aid to the Villages of Anmore and Belcarra to satisfy Ministerial Order M084 issued by the Province on March 26, 2020 until such time as the sub-regional Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement is in effect;*
- 2. Authorize staff to enter a sub-regional Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement with the Cities of Port Moody and Coquitlam and the Villages of Anmore and Belcarra and potentially Metro Vancouver on such terms and conditions as the Director of Engineering and Public Works deems necessary or advisable;*
- 3. Authorize staff to execute an extension of the 1999 Mutual Aid Agreement developed by REAC when appropriate; and*
- 4. Pursuant to Section 13 of the Community Charter, SBC 2003, C26, consent to the Villages of Anmore and Belcarra providing mutual aid services in Port Coquitlam if required as contemplated under Ministerial Order M084.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL/COMMITTEE ACTION

None.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report outlines pertinent sections of Ministerial Order M084, and seeks authorization for staff to enter in to a proposed sub-regional mutual aid agreement with neighbouring municipalities to assist them in being compliant with the Order.

BACKGROUND

The City of Port Coquitlam is a participating member municipality of a Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement that was developed by the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee (REAC) of Metro Vancouver, in 1999. The agreement includes most other Lower Mainland municipalities and is included as an attachment to this report.

The agreement is designed for use in the event of an emergency where resources within a municipality including people, services, equipment, and materials become depleted. At that point, the municipality may request aid from another member municipality. There are several conditions that apply to requesting and rendering aid, including but not limited to:

- There is nothing stating that the municipality that has been requested to provide aid must provide it (the request is based on resources being available);
- The municipality that is providing emergency resources may invoice the requesting municipality for the costs of doing so;

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- Each party in the agreement agrees not to initiate legal action or third party proceedings against any other party in the agreement based on provision or failure to provide emergency resources.

There have been no major requests for mutual aid through the agreement to date to staff's knowledge. The current agreement includes all neighbouring municipalities to Port Coquitlam including Coquitlam, Port Moody, Surrey and Pitt Meadows, but does not include the Villages of Anmore and Belcarra as well as some other small entities in other parts of the region.

DISCUSSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a declaration of state of emergency throughout the Province effective March 18, 2020. There have also been several Ministerial Orders issued, including M084 which states:

Continuity of local authority services

- 7(1) Each local authority must use best efforts to enter into mutual aid agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions to ensure that first responder, waste water and drinking water services are maintained during the period referred to in section 2.
- 7(2) After complying with subsection (1), each local authority must report to Emergency Management BC any unresolved issues that may affect the provision of first responder, waste management, or drinking water services during the period referred to in section 2.

The Villages of Anmore and Belcarra have found themselves to be in non-compliance with this Ministerial Order because they are not part of the GVRD Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement, and have asked their neighbouring municipalities to honor the agreement for parties who are not currently part of it. Staff are recommending the following:

1. That staff provide confirmation of this commitment subject to the passing of a resolution of the Councils of both Anmore and Belcarra that there be no Good Samaritan lawsuits, agreement to the cost recovery provisions and other pertinent parts of the 1999 GVRD Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. Coquitlam has made this same commitment and it is anticipated that Port Moody will be doing so as well.
2. That when resources allow in the upcoming weeks, pertinent staff from the five municipalities in the tri-cities area and potentially Metro Vancouver will work to develop a sub-regional Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. This initiative will likely be much simpler to execute than a renewal of the existing REAC agreement, which would require resolution from all municipal Councils and the Metro Board.


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3. That staff be authorized to enter into another region wide agreement when it is updated, although it is anticipated this could be well into the future.
4. That consent be given to the Villages of Anmore and Belcarra to provide mutual aid services in Port Coquitlam if required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no anticipated financial implications because any mutual aid rendered under the agreement would be completed under a cost recovery basis.

OPTIONS (✓ = Staff Recommendation)

	#	Description
	1	Authorize staff to provide interim mutual aid to the Villages of Anmore and Belcarra, and authorize future mutual aid agreements accordingly.
	2	Decline to provide mutual aid to the Villages of Anmore and Belcarra.
	3	Other

ATTACHMENTS

None.

Lead author(s): Forrest Smith