

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: September 18, 2025

RE: **Protective Services – Flood Defence System Deployment Policy**

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the Board adopt the Flood Defense System Deployment Policy.

Purpose:

The proposed Flood Defense System Policy aims to establish:

- a. Common understanding of key terms and concepts.
- b. Protocol for the deployment, management, and demobilization of Temporary Flood Defense Systems, including concurrent or consecutive flooding events.
- c. Safety standards for personnel tasked with deploying the Systems.
- d. Training and exercise schedule for personnel on the deployment of Systems.
- e. Post-event evaluation and continuous improvement process.

Strategic Priorities:

4.2 Support Protective Services

Background & Analysis:

The RDOS has experienced significant flooding in recent years, requiring deployment of provincial Tiger Dam assets to Okanagan Lake, Tulameen, Willowbrook, Osoyoos, Oliver, and Keremeos between 2018 and 2021. These events demonstrated both the value of temporary flood defense systems and the challenges of coordinating multiple deployments across a large region.

With the recent purchase of RDOS Tiger Dam units funded through grants in partnership with the Lower Similkameen Indian Band (LSIB), the Village of Keremeos, the Town of Osoyoos, and the RDOS, the region now has dedicated local assets available. However, there remains no unified policy guiding deployment, particularly when competing requests arise. Establishing a clear framework will ensure timely response, equitable access, and consistent prioritization across all communities.

Financial Implications:

The financial implications of this policy include the initial acquisition and ongoing maintenance of temporary flood defense systems, as well as costs for secure storage, regular inspections, and part replacements to ensure readiness. While deployment and operational expenses can be significant, these are primarily covered through provincial grants and response funding accessed via task numbers, which offset staff labor, overtime, annual training, scenario-based exercises, transportation, fuel, and Personal Protective Equipment. During concurrent or consecutive flood events, costs may escalate due to split deployment teams, expedited logistics, or mutual aid compensation; however, these response costs are fully funded by the Province.

Demobilization and recovery also generate expenses, including the cleaning and restoration of reusable systems and repairs to any affected infrastructure. Without sustained provincial grant funding for ongoing maintenance and training, the Regional District faces the risk of reduced equipment lifespan, unmet community expectations, and increased long-term replacement costs, underscoring the importance of establishing a dedicated annual budget with contingency provisions for multiple or prolonged flood events.

Communication Strategy:

Information will be posted on the RDOS website and social media channels and sent to local media via email. The document will be shared with RDOS emergency services partners.

Alternatives:

Not to have a formal deployment policy.

Will a PowerPoint presentation be presented at the meeting? No

Respectfully submitted:

“Shane Houlihan”

S. Houlihan, Emergency Program Coordinator

Endorsed by:

“Deborah Jones-Middleton”

D. Jones-Middleton, Protective Services
Manager