

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE****South Cooking Lake Residential Water Fill Station Public Engagement Results****Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with the South Cooking Lake residential water fill station public engagement results.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 2 - Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

**Report**

Administration commissioned Soles & Company Inc., a third-party public engagement company, to facilitate a public engagement process to determine community support for a residential water fill station within the hamlet of South Cooking Lake (SCL). A Citizen Input Panel was created to recommend effective methods and process to engage with local residents. Letters were hand delivered and information was posted on our website inviting SCL and area residents to a public engagement drop-in event hosted in SCL on July 23, 2019. Residents were encouraged to review information for a residential water fill station near the SCL fire station and were invited to provide input and perspective.

Soles & Company's SCL residential water fill station "What We Heard" report is attached as Enclosure 1 and a summary of the results is included in the PowerPoint presentation attached as Enclosure 2.

As part of the drop-in event, each property represented (one per property) was given a token to vote on their level of agreement. Feedback resulting from the event indicated:

- 81% (56 out of 69) of participants living in the catchment area agree or strongly agree with a residential water fill station located at the SCL fire station.
- 19% (13 out of 69) of participants living in the catchment area disagree or strongly disagree with a residential water fill station located at the SCL fire station.

In summary, Soles & Company reported the majority of conversations at the event reflected support for a residential water fill station at the SCL fire station. Participants commented that convenience, access and cost savings were a few benefits that would improve their quality of life in the SCL area.

Participants opposed to the residential water fill station criticized Strathcona County for revisiting this station and strongly opposed the SCL fire station location. Feedback included the safety of children, an increase in traffic merging onto Highway 14, an increase in traffic through the community and icy roads. These identified risks were presented at the event for further feedback. However, the majority of participants felt the risks were not significant and could be adequately mitigated.

Based on Soles & Company's public engagement results, Administration suggests that the Priorities Committee consider recommending to Council that the SCL Residential Water Fill Station capital project be included in the 2020 Budget process for Council's consideration.

**Priorities Committee Meeting\_Oct22\_2019**

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**Council and Committee History**

June 11, 2019	That the South Cooking Lake Residential Water Fill Station Public Engagement results be brought back to Council on the revised date of end of Q3 2019.
July 17, 2018	That by the end of the second quarter in 2019, an engagement process to determine community support for a residential scale truck fill to be situated in the hamlet of South Cooking Lake be approved; and that funding for the engagement process up to a maximum of \$30,000 from the RU1 Utility Rate Stabilization and Contingency Reserve, be approved.
October 25, 2016	That cancellation of the South Strathcona County Truck Fill project be approved.
April 22, 2014	That Council direct Administration to put the South Strathcona County Truck Fill project on hold and that Administration conduct a review in Q2 of 2015 and include a review of resident needs and resident satisfaction.
March 25, 2014	That Council direct Administration to look for further options in the South Cooking Lake area that fits the Alberta Government Water for Life Grant Program and report back to Council at the April 22, 2014 Council meeting.
January 14, 2014	That Council direct Administration to bring forward an amendment to Land Use Bylaw 8-2001 to provide for the development of a water reservoir and truck fill within the Hamlet of South Cooking Lake.
June 8, 2010	That Bylaw 23-2010, an amendment to Land Use Bylaw 8-2001 to provide for a proposed water reservoir and truck fill in South Cooking Lake, be referred back to Administration for consideration of the comments brought forward at the Public Hearing and bring a recommendation on the Bylaw back to Council.
May 18, 2010	Council authorized a Public Hearing be scheduled at 5:00 p.m. on June 8, 2010.

**Other Impacts****Policy:** n/a**Legislative/Legal:** n/a**Interdepartmental:** Communications, Emergency Services, Planning and Development Services**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a**Enclosures**

- 1 South Cooking Lake residential water fill station "What We Heard" report – prepared by Soles & Company Inc.
- 2 South Cooking Lake residential water fill station summary of results – PowerPoint presentation