



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-250

From: Sean Cairns, Protective Services Manager

Date: October 5, 2023

Subject: Food Security Emergency Planning & Preparedness Fund

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize staff to apply for a grant of up to \$250,000 through the Investment Agriculture Foundation to fund the development of an agriculture emergency plan and related procedures, and training for Emergency Operations Centre personnel staff on implementing the agriculture emergency plan and procedures.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Investment Agriculture Foundation, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, has established the Food Security Emergency Planning & Preparedness Fund. The fund is intended to allow agricultural producers, industry associations, and local authorities to develop emergency plans and preparedness strategies with a focus on food security and agricultural resiliency.

Regional districts are eligible to apply for up to \$250,000 in funding under the planning stream. Eligible activities must be completed within 24 months and include:

- Development of a local authority agriculture emergency plan.
- Development and training of staff, volunteers or contractors who will carry out the agriculture-related emergency plan.
- Training programs related to emergency response and activation of emergency plans in support of agriculture.
- Development of tools, policies, protocols, and procedures for response to or management of emergency incidents that impact agriculture.
- Hiring of staff or contractors to conduct agriculture emergency planning activities.
- Exercising agriculture emergency plans.

Applications are due by December 19, 2023.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board declines applying for the Food Security Emergency Planning & Preparedness Fund grant through the Investment Agriculture Foundation.
2. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

Staff Initials: *SC*

Dept. Head: *NB*

CAO: *Shawn Dahlen*

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Emergency Management
 - Engage in Emergency Program Act and Fire Services Act Amendment Processes

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The grant provides 100% project funding for up to \$250,000.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

If successful in obtaining this grant, the PRRD would engage a consultant to complete the project. The consultant, along with PRRD staff, would work closely with the agricultural sector to ensure the alignment of their emergency response plans.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The province is expected to replace the current *Emergency Program Act* with new legislation as early as Fall of this year. The legislation will have new requirements pertaining to risk assessments and emergency management plans which will likely necessitate a refresh of existing assessments and plans, including the PRRD's plans relating to agriculture and livestock.

Additional funding opportunities are available for BC-based agriculture and agri-food industry associations, primary processors, and ancillary service providers (such as veterinarians, feed suppliers, and agricultural transportation service providers). Further details on these funding opportunities are available at <https://iafbc.ca/food-security-emergency-planning-and-preparedness-fund/>