



REGIONAL  
DISTRICT  
OF NANAIMO

**Request for Support – Orphan Dikes Advocacy**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Chair write to the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) expressing the RDN's support for the RDOS's advocacy letter regarding orphan dikes and authorizing the addition of the RDN's name as a signatory to the letter, along with the RDN's logo.
2. That the Chair write to the RDN's member municipalities to request that they seek endorsement from their Councils to support the RDOS's advocacy letter regarding orphan dikes.

**BACKGROUND**

As outlined in the correspondence received from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) on February 11, 2026 (Attachment 1), the RDOS Board has approved sending a letter to the Honourable David Eby, Premier of BC, requesting that the Province assume responsibility for orphan dikes in the province and establish a provincial management program for these dikes. The RDOS is requesting support from all the regional districts in the province as co-signers for their advocacy letter. They are also requesting that regional districts ask their member municipalities to seek endorsement from their Councils supporting the advocacy letter. The RDOS has also written to First Nations requesting their support for the advocacy letter.

As noted in the RDOS's administrative report included in Attachment 1, at least 100 orphan dikes totalling approximately 85 kilometres in length are known to exist in the province. As these dikes' condition deteriorates, and without an identified owner, diking authority, or long-term maintenance program, the dikes present significant risks to public safety, infrastructure, and emergency response capacity.

RDN staff in Recreation and Parks Services and in Regional and Community Utilities and Solid Waste have confirmed that there are several known orphan dikes in the RDN, that they are likely to interfere with the natural flow of water over land and with aquifer recharge potential, and that some of them are unsafe due to their deteriorating condition. Staff confirms that we are addressing the structures in our control and, when possible, working to identify or confirm responsible parties for those not in our control.

Accordingly, it is recommended that the RDN support the RDOS's advocacy efforts on this issue.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Some staff time will be required to draft correspondence in accordance with the recommendation(s) if approved by the Board. No further expenses are anticipated.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

Advocacy

### **REVIEWED BY:**

- D. Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer

### **ATTACHMENT**

1. RDOS Email 11 Feb 2026 – Orphan Dike Advocacy