

October 27, 2020

To: Mayor and Council

Re: White Gold Estates Utility Undergrounding Project

Thank you for the opportunity to petition our neighbourhood to measure its approval to invest in the undergrounding of utilities. We are one of the property owners in favour of this project. We find this to be a one-time opportunity for White Gold residents to underground the utilities at a fraction of the full cost. We believe the benefits include:

1. To Beautify our neighbourhood that is enjoyed by many. White Gold is a popular walking, running, cycling path for people from local and surrounding neighbourhoods as they travel north or south to and from Lost Lake and all three villages: Whistler Village, Upper Village and Marketplace;
2. To Reduce power outages. Overhead wires are subject to more power outages as they are exposed to windstorms, ice buildup, falling trees and wildlife accidents. In the 30+ years, we have owned property and lived in White Gold, we have experienced outages by all of these natural causes;
3. To Safeguard some of our wildlife. When it is birds, squirrels etc. versus hydro transformers, the animal always loses. We have experienced this carnage firsthand when sadly witnessing a bird land on the transformer located at the front of our house. It was electrocuted by over 13,000 volts of electricity and set afire. Of course, the power went out and the transformer needed replacement;
4. To Reduce exposure to electromagnetic fields and its adverse health effects;
5. To Replace aged infrastructure and enjoy the latest technology in utility delivery, and;
6. To realize the financial assistance available to the White Gold project and residents at this time. This includes:
 - a. Access to BC Hydro Beautifying grant of up to \$1.2million;
 - b. RMOW has planned and budgeted for repaving of neighbourhood roads and agreed to hold off until the undergrounding of utilities is complete.
 - c. Municipality willing to finance the project at a low-interest rate with a 20-year payback plan attached to the Annual property tax invoice.

Although most of White Gold Estates homeowners voted in favour of this project, we do understand that not everyone is eager. More specifically, the homeowners who need to incur the upfront cost of undergrounding from the road to their homes in the next year may not be financially prepared to do so during the Covid Pandemic economic impact. If you could find an option for these families to finance this cost and the project cost, it would reduce their hardship in the short term.

We believe Undergrounding the utilities for White Gold Estates is a once in a lifetime opportunity and we are excited to see the project move ahead. Thank you to RMOW staff, Mayor and Council for working with us on this project.

Kind Regards

Corinne and Bob Allison, White Gold Homeowners – 30 years
7330 Fitzsimmons Road South, Whistler BC