



## **Backgrounder**

March 24, 2020

### **Township of Langley Performance Audit Report, Part Two**

#### **What we audited**

- This report includes one of four performance audit objectives we investigated in the Township of Langley: whether the Township managed its drinking water supply infrastructure to meet current and future demand.
- The other three objectives were included in a previous audit report, released in August 2019. This previous report focused on the Township's governance of its drinking water operations, management of infrastructure and operations, and supply and demand management activities.
- The audit covered the period Jan. 1, 2016 through Dec. 31, 2018.
- During this time, the Township completed a major capital infrastructure project – the East Langley Water Supply (ELWS) project – and was working on developing its asset management program.

#### **Why we chose this topic**

- Every British Columbian's well-being depends on access to clean drinking water.
- In many communities, it is local government that plans for, sources, treats (where necessary) and delivers drinking water to its residents.
- It is important that local governments effectively manage the construction and implementation of their drinking water supply infrastructure to ensure drinking water availability, safety and reliability over the long term.

#### **Unique aspects of the audit**

- The drinking water audit topic was one of the most complex audit topics undertaken by the AGLG to date – with the Township of Langley, it involved reviewing organization-wide governance and activities as well as conducting a detailed assessment of the Township's water system management. The audit also included a detailed review of the Township's approach to capital project management for the East Langley Water Supply project, due to its significance relative to the provision of drinking water at the Township.
- The Township of Langley depends on five district water systems operating 19 public groundwater wells, as well as water purchased from the Greater Vancouver Water District.



### **What we found**

- The Township of Langley was dedicated to ensuring its drinking water infrastructure meets current and future demand.
- The Township delivered the ELWS project, but its completion was significantly later than expected. There are a range of factors that contributed to this delay.
  - This audit does not detail those factors, rather it looks at the processes the Township had in place for management of the project.
- We identified several areas where the Township had opportunities to improve its approach to capital project management.

### **What we recommend**

- We have made 16 recommendations aimed at helping the Township of Langley ensure the success of its drinking water supply infrastructure management.
- These recommendations relate to capital project management, project procurement, scheduling and project timelines, and asset management and water supply infrastructure.
- Overall, the recommendations focus on the development of capital project management policies and procedures, which the Township may choose to combine into one overall guidance document.

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Contact:

Gordon Ruth

Auditor General for Local Government

[Gordon.Ruth@aglg.ca](mailto:Gordon.Ruth@aglg.ca)

604 930-7100