

[Kelowna](#) posted June 10, 2016 by [Anita Sthankiya](#)

## RDCO creating a regional flood management plan

The Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) is [developing a plan](#) to help reduce the potential damage that flooding can cause in the region.

The first phase of the [Regional Floodplain Management Plan](#) has been completed, according to the RDCO, which has identified and prioritized the criteria for further study of flood hazard areas. The report notes that only a few floodplain maps have been completed and only five watercourses have permanent emergency flood protection infrastructure.



*Photo Credit: RDCO*

As well, based on available climate change research, the report states the magnitude of extreme peak flows is projected to increase which could cause an increase in flood and natural hazards within the region.

“The regional district hopes to begin the second phase of the floodplain management plan later this year. This includes assessing the flood hazard and risk in identified high priority areas. It’s proposed the third and final phase of the plan will further develop and expand upon existing flood risk mitigation strategies for the Central Okanagan,” communications officer Bruce Smith said in a statement.



*Photo Credit: RDCO*

The goal of the project is to reduce the risk of flooding while improving emergency response. When it is completed, the plan will be used in every Central Okanagan government and First Nation.

Funding for phases one and two have been provided through grants from the Okanagan Basin Water Board water conservation and quality improvement program (Phase 1, \$20,000; Phase 2, \$25,000), the federal gas tax fund and the regional district.