



May 17, 2019

**Alberni Valley Drag Racing Association (AVDRA) Proposal to Return to the
Alberni Valley Regional Airport (AVRA)**

Facts:

- The AVDRA submitted a proposal in November 2018 to return their drag race event to operate on the runway at the AVRA.
- The AVDRA operated on the AVRA runway from 2001 through 2015, prior to the AVRA expansion project commencing in 2016.
- The AVRA expansion project has included \$8 million in capital upgrades to extend the runway, upgrade lighting and implement a GPS approach which would allow for larger jet aircraft and increase day and night operations.
- The Regional District has a responsibility to take necessary measures to protect the significant public investment made with the expansion project and optimize the life cycle of the asset.
- The Regional District retained the services of Tetra Tech Consulting in order to help assess the potential impacts of the AVDRA drag race proposal on the runway. The Tetra Tech report highlighted several areas of potential concern including the following:
 1. Compatibility of the drag race event with current aircraft operations
 2. Impact on future aircraft operations
 3. Impact on AVRA tenants and neighbors
 4. Impact on AVRA levels of service
 5. Impact on AVRA infrastructure
- The number and nature of leases and airport activities has increased since the drag races previously operated at the airport.
- Hosting the drag race event at the AVRA could negatively impact current tenants resulting in potential lease agreement conflicts.
- The taxpayers would be at risk if the AVDRA could not follow through with financial requirements to host the event or if there were issues with insurance with respect to any claims associated with the event.
- Based on technical and legal information received, the Regional District Board of Directors made the very difficult decision to deny the AVDRA's proposal to hold their 2019 drag race event at the Alberni Valley Regional Airport.
- The Regional District Board of Directors has directed staff to assist the AVDRA with finding a long-term home for future drag races and have also asked staff to report back with options to potentially provide a financial contribution to support the AVDRA event on Stamp Ave within the City of Port Alberni for 2019.

For more detailed information please click on the link and refer to item 6(a) in the agenda

https://www.acrd.bc.ca/dms/documents/agendas/2019-alberni-valley-directors-meeting/april_24_agenda_.pdf