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**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 2 JUNE 2010**

SUBJECT **East Sooke Fire Protection and Emergency Response Establishment Bylaw Amendment**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request Board approval of Bylaw No. 3702 which 1) amends the East Sooke fire service area to expand the boundaries to include the East Sooke Regional Park and 2) repeals redundant bylaws.

BACKGROUND

In 2006 the East Sooke Fire Improvement District was converted to a service of the CRD. Since that time the East Sooke Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Commission has examined the pros and cons of extending the boundaries of the service area to include the East Sooke Regional Park. The main reason for including the park within the boundary is to provide unimpeded access to the park for emergencies without delay. Currently, the park is outside the service area so the department must wait for a PEP task number to attend to incidents inside the park. This delay could result in fires spreading to nearby residents outside the park. The commission has requested the boundary extension.

Several fire improvement district bylaws were not repealed when the CRD established the new service in 2006. Two of these bylaws are now redundant and should be repealed.

1. Fire improvement district bylaw No.5 for fire regulations is superseded by CRD Fire Regulation bylaw No. 3452.
2. The mutual aid agreement between Shirley, Otter Point, Sooke and East Sooke was amended earlier this year and the CRD bylaw No. 2323 was repealed therefore Improvement District Bylaw No. 26 with the old agreement is redundant.

In 1982 two referendums to establish the East Sooke Fire Protection service and borrow for capital works were held. The first referendum under CRD Bylaw No. 1031 was successful by only 4 votes and pressure to hold a second referendum resulted in a failure to establish the service under Bylaw No. 1072. The first bylaw should be repealed.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That Bylaw No. 3702, "East Sooke Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2006 Amendment No.1, 2010" be introduced and read a first time, read a second time and read a third time.

2. Do not amend the establishment bylaw to bring the park into the service area and repeal the old bylaws.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The commission understands that the addition of the park within the fire service area will not increase the taxable assessments as the park is owned by the CRD. No additional revenue will be collected to cover this area. Based on prior years, loss of funding from PEP would be insignificant.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

Extending the East Sooke fire service area boundaries to include the East Sooke Regional Park will provide faster access for the fire fighters to emergencies within the park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Bylaw No. 3702, "East Sooke Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2006 Amendment No.1, 2010" be introduced and read a first time, read a second time and read a third time.

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COMMENTS:

Attachments: 1