



**Agenda Item #**

**REPORT TO THE PLANNING & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2006**

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**SUBJECT**

**REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY INTERIM UPDATE PROJECT CHARTER**

**PURPOSE**

To confirm the general process, project scope and timeline of the regional growth strategy (RGS) bylaw interim update.

**BACKGROUND**

The CRD adopted the RGS on August 13, 2003. A number of initiatives, in particular sub-strategies for transportation, housing affordability and economic development, were not completed at the time of adoption. RGS initiative I-6 requires the CRD to undertake an interim update of the RGS, within three years of its adoption, to define the Regional Urban Containment and Servicing Policy Area (RUCSPA) in the District of Sooke, and incorporate revisions that arise from the Regional Transportation Strategy, the Regional Housing Affordability Strategy, and the Regional Economic Development Strategy. As well, changes stemming from the Board acceptance of member municipality regional context statements and the update of official community plans in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area would also be included in the interim update. Most notable of these to date would be to include the Highlands Servicing Area within the RUCSPA. Finally, since RGS adoption, some senior government programs have been eliminated (most notably the Forest Land Reserve) or have changed scope and focus, thereby requiring amendment to the RGS. Attachment A outlines a proposed project charter for the RGS interim update. Attachment B summarizes the current five year implementation schedule for the RGS.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. That the Board approve the proposed Regional Growth Strategy Interim Update Project Charter and direct Regional Planning to develop and implement a project work plan on this basis to start in October 2006.
2. That the Board provide direction on any further amendments to the Regional Growth Strategy Interim Update Project Charter and direct Regional Planning to develop and implement a project work plan on this basis to start in October 2006.
3. That the Board, if regional context statements have not been received for acceptance by August 31, 2006 from the District of Metchosin, the District of North Saanich, the Township of Esquimalt, and the District of Sooke, cancel the interim update and defer

consideration possible Regional Growth Strategy to the five-year review and update scheduled for 2008.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Single supplementary funds of \$10,000 are included in the 2006 Regional Growth Strategy budget to cover incidental consultant, legal and process costs for a one-time RGS interim amendment. The budget does not include funds to run additional amendment processes to address issues separately.

### **GROWTH MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The *Local Government Act* requires member municipalities to submit regional context statements for the Board's acceptance within two years of the date of adoption of the RGS, or for the CRD, by August 13, 2005. Four regional context statements (RCS) are in progress but have not yet been submitted to the Board for acceptance: that is, for the District Sooke, the District of Metchosin, the Township of Esquimalt, and the District of North Saanich. The RCS for the District of Sooke is expected to identify the portion of the municipality to be included within the RUCSPA, a key issue for consideration in the interim update.

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The District of Highlands is considering the option of requesting the Board to proceed as soon as possible with an amendment to the RGS bylaw to include the Highlands Servicing Area within the RUCSPA, rather than wait until the interim update or the five-year update of the RGS.

The proposed project charter assumes that comprehensive engagement with Capital Region First Nations regarding their participation in the CRD's growth management program and the RGS bylaw will follow proposed political discussions to enhance the government to government relationship between the CRD and Capital Region First Nations. This assumption may need to be confirmed in discussion with Capital Region First Nations.

### **SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS**

The purpose of the interim update is not to undertake a comprehensive review of the RGS. The more limited purpose is to complete the process of initial implementation of the RGS, in particular by determining the complete extent of the RUCSPA, and by incorporating key goals and strategic policy directions related to the three sub-strategies. Of these, the regional transportation strategy is complete and adopted, the board has provided direction regarding development of a regional economic sustainability policy to be included in the RGS, and the revised Regional Housing Affordability Strategy has been circulated for review and comment, and is scheduled to be completed and brought forward for consideration for adoption by the Board in October 2006.

If RCS's for Sooke, Esquimalt, North Saanich and Metchosin are not submitted for acceptance by August 31, 2006, the timeline for completion of the interim update would be pushed back into late 2007, and possibly early 2008 depending upon whether dispute resolution is required for any proposed bylaw amendment. This would effectively put the interim update into the time

frame for the five year review of the RGS. As such, if the interim update does not commence in October 2006 it is reasonable to cancel it, and address any items scheduled for the interim update as part of the five-year review. The General Manager and Senior Manager will meet with senior staff from Metchosin, Esquimalt, North Saanich and Sooke prior to the meeting to determine a firm timeline for submission of outstanding regional context statements.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee recommend that the Board:

1. Approve the proposed Regional Growth Strategy Interim Update Project Charter and direct Regional Planning to develop and implement a project work plan on this basis to start in October 2006;
2. Circulate the proposed interim update project charter to member councils, electoral area directors, First Nations councils, and member agencies of the Development and Planning Advisory Committee for information; and,
3. Request the Minister of Community Services to send written direction to the District of Metchosin, the District of North Saanich, the Township of Esquimalt and the District of Sooke to include a Regional Context Statement in their Official Community Plans at their immediate next update and to submit the regional context statement for the Board's acceptance by August 31, 2006.

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Mark Hornell, MCIP  
Senior Manager - Regional Planning

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Robert Lapham, MCIP  
General Manager - Planning &  
Protective Services  
Concurrence

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Kelly Daniels, CAO  
Concurrence

### **COMMENTS:**