

**Report to the Planning & Protective Services Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, January 24, 2007**

SUBJECT

Regional Growth Strategy Consultation Plan for the RGS amendment bylaw

PURPOSE

To obtain approval for the Consultation Plan for the RGS amendment bylaw.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of December 6, 2006, the Board of the CRD approved a work plan for the amendment of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) and formally initiated the amendment process. As described in the work plan, the amendment will update the RGS with the following changes:

1. Inclusion of the proposed Highlands Servicing Area (as designated on Map 2.1 of the Official Community Plan for the District of Highlands) within the Regional Urban Containment and Servicing Policy Area;
2. Inclusion of settlement containment areas in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (as designated in the draft Official Community Plans for East Sooke and Otter Point) within the Regional Urban Containment and Servicing Policy Area;
3. Language to give effect to the Memoranda of Understanding signed in September, 2002 between the CRD and the municipalities of Oak Bay and View Royal. The memorandum signed with View Royal states that the Town shall be removed from the "Western Communities" classification and included within the "Core Communities" classification. The memorandum signed with Oak Bay states that the District may achieve its target of a 5% increase in planned capacity for ground-oriented housing through a variety of housing types; and
4. Other minor text and map corrections where necessary.

According to Section 853(4) of the *Local Government Act*, the process used to amend a regional growth strategy is the same as the process used to create it. Following the initiation and written notice of the amendment, and pursuant to Section 855 of the *Local Government Act*, the Board must adopt a consultation plan that, in the opinion of the Board, provides opportunities for early and ongoing consultation with, at a minimum:

- Its citizens
- Affected local governments
- First nations

- School district boards, greater boards and improvement district boards
- The provincial and federal governments and their agencies.

The Consultation Plan (see Attachment A) responds to this legislative requirement while acknowledging the extent of consultation that has occurred on many of the proposed amendment issues at the Regional District level and with the affected municipalities. The Consultation Plan seeks a balance between providing broad consultation opportunities and keeping the process focused and efficient to meet the needs of the Board and the affected interests.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Board approve the Consultation Plan for the RGS amendment bylaw.
2. That the Board direct staff to make modifications to the Consultation Plan to respond to any identified issues and concerns.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Single supplementary funds of \$10,000 were included in the 2006 Regional Growth Strategy budget to cover incidental consultation, legal and process costs for a one-time RGS interim amendment. As these costs will now be incurred in 2007, this amount needs to be re-budgeted for 2007 from the 2006 projected surplus.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

If the RGS is amended, all municipalities will again be required to submit regional context statements for acceptance by the Board. This requirement is stated in section 866(8) of the *Local Government Act*. Context statements must be submitted within two years of the date of adoption of an amended RGS.

Municipalities who have already submitted context statements for the current RGS bylaw may resubmit these same context statements provided that the amended RGS is not substantively different from the current RGS. The proposed amendments outlined in the approved work plan will allow municipalities, with the exception of Highlands, to resubmit the same regional context statements for acceptance by the Board following adoption of the amended RGS.

CRD staff will work with the affected municipalities to support municipal staff in meeting the legislative and process requirements associated with a RGS amendment and will continue to work with those municipalities that have not submitted regional context statements to resolve any outstanding issues.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The Consultation Plan is provided for consideration of approval in response to the December 6, 2006 CRD Board decision to proceed with the RGS Interim update as per the approved work plan. The Consultation Plan fulfills the requirements of the *Local Government Act* as it pertains to growth strategy amendments, while recognizing the need for an efficient and focused amendment process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Planning & Protective Services Committee recommend to the Board:

1. That the Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Interim Update Consultation Plan, for the RGS amendment bylaw be approved.

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COMMENTS: