



**STAFF REPORT TO THE PLANNING & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF APRIL 23, 2008**

SUBJECT: CRD Bylaw No. 3533, "Capital Regional District Idling Control Bylaw No. 1, 2008"
A Bylaw to Promote Clean Air by Regulating Motor Vehicle Idling

PURPOSE/ISSUE:

To introduce an Idling Control bylaw as a measure to promote and preserve public health and clean air by regulating motor vehicle idling and to direct staff to undertake a public consultation process on the bylaw.

BACKGROUND

By Supplementary Letters Patent and the *Local Government Act*, the CRD is enabled to:

"regulate and prohibit for the purposes of maintaining, promoting and preserving public health and maintaining sanitary conditions and undertake any other measures it considers necessary for those purposes."

There is growing concern over the health and clean air hazards posed by vehicle exhaust. A visible source of unnecessary pollution, idling vehicles have become the target of citizen complaints. Motor vehicles dispense nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, sulphur oxide, volatile organic compounds and greenhouse gas emissions into the environment. The fine particulates generated by vehicle exhaust are inhaled deep into the lungs and penetrate the air sacs, posing significant health risks, especially for persons suffering from asthma, emphysema and other lung diseases.

In an effort to address these public health and environmental hazards, municipalities across Canada are preparing and implementing idling control bylaws. In the Capital Region, the municipalities of Victoria and Langford have enacted bylaws to restrict idling. A number of other municipalities in the Regional District are considering idling control bylaws.

On September 12, 2007, Dr. Richard Stanwick, CMHO, Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) and Mr. Forrest Smith, Chair of the Roundtable on Environment's (RTE) Climate Change Subcommittee, proposed to the Board, in the interests of economy and consistency, the development of a bylaw to restrict vehicle idling in the Capital Regional District. The Board referred the matter to the Planning & Protective Services Committee for further consideration and a recommendation.

In January 2008, the Roundtable on Environment approved in principle, a proposed regional idling control bylaw. At the time of writing the staff report, the draft bylaw was being reviewed by CRD legal counsel; a copy will be circulated to Committee at the April meeting. The proposed bylaw was prepared by the RTE by comparing the existing bylaws of the City of Victoria and the City of Langford, and the generic model offered by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).

Attached to this report are letters from VIHA's Board Chair and CMHO, supporting this initiative. A public consultation process to hear the views and evidence relevant to this issue is recommended. Dr. Stanwick and the RTE will continue to support and consult through this process. Pending Committee and Board approval, staff are prepared to organize public consultation for June 2008, allowing for full implementation of the bylaw by fall. The consultation would be composed of two public hearings.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the proposed regional idling control bylaw be introduced and read a first time and that staff be directed to proceed with public consultation on the proposed bylaw.
2. That the Board not proceed with consideration of an idling control bylaw for the region.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS:

The proposed bylaw and the public consultation process will be funded from the general administration budget for the Local Board of Health; however, administrative support including public information and enforcement will be provided from the office of the CMHO. The proposed bylaw will be managed through communications of both the District and VIHA. In these communications, the responsibilities of both parties will be explained.

A District website will be set up to explain the proposed legislation, why the CRD has responsibility for the legislation and the responsibility of the CMHO of VIHA. The website will have links to the CMHO's website which will contain the explanation, background and evidence in support of the proposed bylaw. Links to other organizations' websites are also a possibility.

The District website will also be used to explain and organize the public consultation. This will include notification of public hearings, a description of the process, pre-registration and ordering of speakers, and the receipt of written submissions. With the assistance of CRD Corporate Communications, a media plan will be devised (media kits, public hearings notices, media coverage, etc.).

SUMMARY/CONCLUSION:

With increasing concerns over clean air and the environment, visible and unnecessary sources of pollution, such as vehicle idling, have become the target of citizen complaints. Municipalities across Canada are passing idling control bylaws to protect their citizens' health and their environment.

A regional idling bylaw is a public health objective of VIHA, a common environmental and health goal of the RTE, and is supported by VIHA's Board Chair and CMHO. The bylaw also supports the provincial government's climate change initiatives and VIHA's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.

In the interest of economy and efficiency and recognizing the trend across Canadian municipalities, a regional idling control bylaw is recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Planning & Protective Services Committee recommends to the CRD Board:

1. That CRD Bylaw No. 3533 "Capital Regional District Idling Control Bylaw No. 1, 2008" be introduced and read a first time.
2. Staff be directed to proceed with public consultation on the proposed bylaw.



Rajat Sharma, Manager
Health Facilities Planning Division
Report Writer

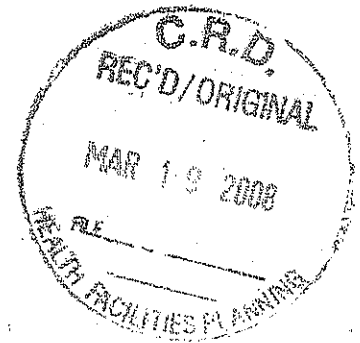


Robert Lapham, General Manager Concurrence



Kelly Daniels, CAO Concurrence

COMMENTS:



March 5, 2008

Ref # 6469

Denise Blackwell
Chair, Capital Regional District Board
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Dear Chair Blackwell:

Re: Capital Regional District Proposed Idling Control Bylaw

The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) is pleased to provide a letter of support for this important initiative to improve the health of the residents of the Capital Regional District. It has been well established that air pollution is a significant cause of both morbidity and mortality. The fine particulate matter generated by the burning of fossil fuels can now be linked to triggering of not only asthma and other respiratory conditions but heart attacks as well.

In following the lead of the provincial government, our Health Authority is committed to reducing our carbon footprint. Implementing the provisions of the Bylaw will allow our health authority to move one step closer to achieving that goal by eliminating unnecessary engine idling in VIHA vehicles.

Our Health Authority also recognizes the steps taken by School District No. 63 in creating idling free zones around schools, lead by the students at McTavish Elementary School as well as the Municipalities of Victoria and Langford.

Regards,

Jac Kreut
Board Chair

Copy: *Andrea*
Teresa W.

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT	
DATE RECEIVED	
MAR 10 2008	
Board Chair, <i>Directors</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GM Corp. Svcs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GM Env. Svcs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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GM Pl./Prot. Svcs:	<input type="checkbox"/>
GM Water Svcs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Narv. Lee</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Our Vision: Healthy People, Healthy Island Communities, Seamless Service



Please note Dr. Stanwick's telephone number (250) 519-7066 and fax number (250) 519-7079

February 21, 2008

Susan Brice
Chair, CRD Roundtable on the Environment
Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Dear Director Brice:

Re: Capital Regional District Proposed Idling Control Bylaw

Thank you for your letter of February 19, 2008 regarding the Capital Regional District's proposed *Idling Control Bylaw*. As per BC Regulation 42/2004 I have reviewed the proposed bylaw. Your efforts to address the issue of unnecessary vehicle idling as part of the Capital Regional District's commitment to support the goal of environmental sustainability are to be applauded and supported.

Yours sincerely,

Richard S. Stanwick, M.D., M.Sc., FRCPC, F.A.A.P.
Chief Medical Health Officer

Suite 430 - 1900 Richmond Avenue, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8R 4R2

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