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Agenda Item # 5

REPORT TO PLANNING AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2008

SUBJECT 2008-2009 Regional Information Services Program

PURPOSE

To provide information about the nature and extent of information services and products produced through the Regional Planning Department's Regional Information Services Program.

BACKGROUND

The CRD Regional Planning Information Services program collects, maintains analyses and disseminates a broad range of regional data for use by the CRD departments, member municipalities, electoral areas, government agencies, businesses, non-profit organisations, academics and the general public. The department is the region's clearinghouse for Statistics Canada and Census information for the regional district, and has been offering demographic data and technical assistance for over two decades. The department maintains a comprehensive web site presence at www.crd.bc.ca/regionalplanning as well as an information counter service, document library, and publications service.

Products and services include:

- Fact sheets (StatsCan & development summaries)
- Regional Profile series (regional trends & statistics)
- Construction activity tracking (building permit reporting)
- CRD Demographic Atlas publication
- CRD Employers database
- Community Indicators network (support & hosting)
- Urban Poverty Project Tables (Co-sponsor and support)
- Customized demographic and site location analysis services
- Custom mapping services

(Attachment Two)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Regional Planning Information Services program provides a number of services to the member municipalities and electoral areas as well as other agencies and organisations. The Statistics Canada information is centrally purchased, analyzed and assembled by the department for distribution to the member municipalities and CRD departments, resulting in considerable cost savings over individual purchasing. The department provides demographic data and technical assistance to municipalities for their OCP and local area planning processes, to BC Transit for their capital and operating plans, to the CRD Core Liquid Waste project for their growth and capacity assessments, and to numerous non-profit agencies for their market and service assessments. The department works closely with municipal staff and their consultants to provide population projections, growth trend information, employment data and dwelling unit projections.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Projects and documents outlined in this report are funded through the core budget of the Regional Planning department. Comprehensive publications such as the Demographic Atlas are available for sale to external customers on a cost-recovery basis. Technical services, such as customized site location analysis are offered at a base rate of \$70.00/hour.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT & TRANSPORTATION IMPLICATIONS

Much of the information collected through the Regional Information Services Program is directly utilized in the Regional Growth Strategy monitoring program and review process, the update and recalibration of the Transportation model, input to the Origin-Destination Travel Survey, and the development of population and growth projections for the growth strategy.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The attached document outlines many of the products and services offered through the Regional Information Services program and their applications. Also appended to this report are copies of the following documents:

- List of Products (web-based & print publications)
- Regional Profile Series: Regional Statistics, Historical Development
- Building Permits Quarterly Report
- Fact Sheets: Population, Construction, Land Use

The Regional Information Services program represents one of the core functions of the Regional Planning Division and provides the data and demographic analysis support to many CRD and municipal planning initiatives, including the Regional Growth Strategy, the Transportation Model and the Core Liquid Waste project. The program also provides information and support to a broad range of agencies, community groups and business people.

RECOMMENDATION

That this report be received for information.

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COMMENTS: