

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Special Meeting of Wednesday, August 1, 2001

SUBJECT:

Next Steps in the Regional Growth Strategy Process

BACKGROUND:

Nov. 8, 2000: The Board authorizes Regional Planning Services (RPS) to prepare a draft Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) and to circulate it to member councils for review and comment prior to the introduction of the RGS bylaw for 1st and 2nd reading.

Feb. 28, 2001: The Board authorizes publication and distribution of *A Proposed Regional Growth Strategy for B.C.'s Capital Region* for pre-bylaw review and comment to the end of July 2001.

Mar 28, 2001: The Board authorizes initiation of projects to develop a regional transportation strategy, a regional housing affordability strategy, and a regional economic development strategy and allocates funds from the 2001 RGS contingency budget as a CRD share of each project cost. The Board further authorizes staff to enter into discussions with others to develop partnership agreements to undertake the three projects.

June 27, 2001: Presentations of the proposed RGS to member councils and others completed. In all, 12 presentations were given to councils, committees of councils, advisory planning committees and others.

DISCUSSION:

Comments on *A Proposed Regional Growth Strategy for B.C.'s Capital Region* have been received from 9 municipalities including:

City of Victoria, District of Saanich, District of North Saanich, District of Langford, District of Oak Bay, Town of View Royal, Town of Sidney, District of Central Saanich, and the District of Sooke.

The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area director and the Cowichan Valley Regional District have also submitted comments. All local government comments received are included for the Committee's information in Attachment A. Further comments may be received from municipalities that have not included a council resolution in the letters received to date.

Comments have not yet been received from the Township of Esquimalt, the District of Highlands, the City of Colwood, and the District of Metchosin.

The circulation of the proposed RGS also generated prominent coverage in the Times-Colonist newspaper (Attachment B)

All comments received from member councils and others will be referred to the regularly scheduled meeting of Regional Planning Committee on September 19, 2001. At that time, RPS will present a full staff report including comments and recommendations on the responses received and recommendations on possible optional courses of action to deal with issues identified. Recommendations from Regional Planning Committee from the September 19th meeting would not go to the Board until October 11, 2001, due to the annual UBCM conference in late September.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Regional Planning Committee receive this report for information.

Mark Hornell, MCIP
Acting Director, Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director