

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
Regional Planning Services Department

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee  
Meeting of Wednesday, October 16, 2002

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**SUBJECT:**

Regional Growth Strategy Referral Process Update #5

**BACKGROUND:**

- Feb. 27, 2002: The Board gives Bylaw No. 2952 first and second reading and resolves to hold a public hearing on the bylaw, ask the Minister to appoint a provincial facilitator, and to submit the bylaw to member municipalities, the Cowichan Valley Regional District, and the Minister for acceptance following the public hearing and before third reading.
- April 3, 2002: The public hearing on Bylaw No. 2952 is held by Chairman Causton as a delegation of the board at the Ambrosia Catering and Event Centre, 638 Fisgard Street, Victoria. The report of the public hearing was subsequently received by the Board on April 24<sup>th</sup> and referred to member municipalities for information.
- April 5, 2002: Bylaw No. 2952 is formally submitted by letter signed by Chairman Causton to member municipalities, the CVRD and the Minister for acceptance. The bylaw is also distributed for information to the Islands Trust, School Districts, First Nations and the Greater Vancouver Regional District.
- May 8, 2002: Provincial facilitator Dale Wall presents to the Board on the role of the facilitator for the CRD regional growth strategy.
- May 15, 2002 The RGS Referral Process Update Report #1 is presented to the Regional Planning Committee. No formal responses were received at this time.
- June 19, 2002 The RGS Referral Process Update Report #2 is presented to the Regional Planning Committee. Formal acceptance of the RGS is received from the District of Sooke and the Cowichan Valley Regional District.
- July 17, 2002 The RGS Referral Process Update Report #3 is presented to the Regional Planning Committee. Formal acceptance of the RGS is received from the

- August 14, 2002 District of Saanich, the Township of Esquimalt, and the Township of Central Saanich.  
RGS Referral Process Report on Issues & Options for Resolution (Update #4) is presented to the Board of Directors. At this date, formal acceptance has been received by Central Saanich, Colwood, CVRD, Esquimalt, Langford, Oak Bay, Saanich, Sooke and Victoria. Acceptance has not been obtained from Highlands, Metchosin, North Saanich, Sidney and View Royal.
- Sept. 11, 2002 A memorandum of understanding between the Town of View Royal and the CRD Board is approved by the Board of Directors. The MOU recognises the Town of View Royal as a core municipality for the purpose of the RGS.
- Sept. 23, 2002 Correspondence is received from Dale Wall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, extending the referral period to October 31, 2002.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), Bylaw No. 2952, is still in circulation to the member municipalities as part of the statutory referral process. Originally scheduled to end Tuesday August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2002, the referral period has been extended twice, first to September 30<sup>th</sup> and now to October 31, 2002.

The purpose for the latest extension is to allow the District of Highlands, the District of North Saanich and the Town of Sidney staff and elected officials to explore possible options to resolve the concerns raised by these municipalities. The Provincial Facilitator is working with the District of Highlands and the District of Langford.

Regional Planning Services staff is working with the District of North Saanich, and the Town of Sidney, to find acceptable solutions to the issues raised by these municipalities. Municipal staff reports with recommendations regarding acceptance or refusal of the RGS are scheduled to go to council meetings prior to the conclusion of the October 31<sup>st</sup> referral deadline.

The municipal councils may choose one of three possible outcomes with respect to the RGS:

- Accept the Regional Growth Strategy, or
- Respond, by resolution, to the Regional Board indicating that they refuse to accept the Regional Growth Strategy, and stating their reasons for doing so
- Respond, by resolution, to the Regional Board indicating that they accept the Bylaw, providing a specific, identified section will not apply to their municipality

Report to the Regional Planning Committee, October 16, 2002  
 Re: Regional Growth Strategy Referral Process Update #5, Page 3

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The current status of the referral process on the Regional Growth Strategy, Bylaw No. 2952 is summarized in the following table:

Municipality	Status	Comments
Metchosin	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Still has concerns about the cost and scope of implementation, buffering standards, water services to rural areas and watershed protection. Will need to address concerns through the implementation plan, bi-lateral agreements (on buffering) and future projects (watershed planning)</li> </ul>
Esquimalt	Accepted	
View Royal	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MOU was developed to re-classify the Town of View Royal from western communities to a core municipality. This change will need to be reflected in the next update to the RGS and in the Town's regional context statement.</li> </ul>
Highlands	Not Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The District is working with the Provincial Facilitator and the District of Langford to address cross-boundary issues.</li> </ul>
Colwood	Accepted	
Langford	Accepted	
Oak Bay	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MOU between CRD and the District of Oak Bay was developed to address outstanding concerns regarding housing targets for ground-oriented, the population and dwelling unit projections, and housing requirements related to the University of Victoria. These changes will need to be reflected in the next update of the RGS and in the District's regional context statement.</li> </ul>
Victoria	Accepted	
Saanich	Accepted	
North Saanich	Not Accepted	<p>The District remains concerned about the potential cost and resource demands related to the implementation of the RGS. A draft implementation plan has been prepared, is scheduled to be reviewed by their Committee of the Whole on October 21, 2002</p>
Central Saanich	Accepted	
Sidney	Not Accepted	<p>The Town remains concerned with the intent and scope of the proposed master implementation agreement and the RGS five-year review, as well as some concerns related to the buffering requirement and the number of first nations. RPS staff have been working with staff from Sidney to address these concerns. Their Council will deal with the CRD and municipal staff report on October 21, 2002.</p>
Sooke	Accepted	
Cowichan Valley Regional District	Accepted	

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Regional Planning Committee receive this report for information.

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Tracy Corbett, MCIP  
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Mark Hornell, MCIP  
Director – Regional Planning Services

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS:**

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W.M. Jordan, Executive Director