

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
Regional Planning Services Department

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, October 15, 2003

SUBJECT:

Proposed Monitoring Program for the Regional Growth Strategy

BACKGROUND:

The Board approved the Regional Growth Strategy in August 2003. The provincial legislation requires the regional district to develop a program for monitoring the progress of the RGS and to report annually on its implementation.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed program (Attachment #1) is designed to meet the requirements of the provincial legislation, as well as provide feedback to the Regional Board and the municipal councils on the growth strategy. It is also intended to balance the need for monitoring with resource availability, including data availability, staff resources (regional & municipal) and budgetary considerations.

The monitoring program serves a number of functions, including:

- Tracking the population, migration, employment, and development assumptions that the RGS is based on
- Tracking changes to government legislation (particularly provincial) that may affect the implementation of the RGS
- Assessing the opportunities for, and the barriers to, implementation of the development pattern established through the RGS (e.g. more compact urban form, mixed use centres, protection of open space and agricultural lands)

Findings may indicate that new policies need to be created, existing RGS provisions need to be modified, and/or that the underlying growth assumptions need to be modified. The monitoring program can provide timely information for the proposed Interim Update and any subsequent amendments to the RGS.

Two main deliverables are proposed: an annual report and a more comprehensive “state of the region” report prepared either every five years to reflect the census timing, or every three years following the municipal election cycle.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Regional Planning Committee advise administration on the nature and extent of the proposed indicators and the timing of the “state of the region” report.
2. That this report and the recommendations from the Regional Planning Committee be forwarded to the Regional Board.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

Tracy K. Corbett, MCIP
Senior Planner
Regional Planning Services

Mark Hornell, MCIP
Director of Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director

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Attachment