

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
Regional Planning Services Department

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, March 16, 2005

SUBJECT:

Provincial Activities and the RGS – Requests from the District of Metchosin and the District of Saanich

BACKGROUND:

- Nov. 19/03: Regional Planning Committee 1) approved a set of interim development review guidelines to apply to development referrals from municipalities and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area; and directed staff to: 2) work with members of the Inter-Municipal Planning Advisory Committee (now DPAC) to develop a process for dealing with applications which may affect the urban containment boundary, including servicing extensions beyond the boundary and applications to alter the boundary; 3) work with provincial representatives to develop an implementation agreement that clarifies the provincial roles, responsibilities and commitments to the RGS, particularly those related to transportation, land use changes, and activities in the crown/community interface; and, 4) work with the staff of the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services (MCAWS) and other interested regional district staff to develop a process to facilitate a more responsive and timely approach to making minor modifications, corrections and improvements to the RGS.
- Mar. 26/04: Draft RGS Master Implementation Agreement (MIA) presented to the Development and Planning Advisory Committee for review and comment. The purpose of the draft MIA is to establish criteria and procedures for managing the regional urban containment and servicing policy area (RUCSPA).
- Dec. 22/04: Letter from Mayor Karen Watson of Metchosin seeks support from CRD and member municipalities to seek protection of provincial crown lands described as section 25, section 28 and section 94 as park or ecological reserve. The District has been approached by Land and Water BC Inc. (LWBC) regarding the development potential of these lands (Attachment A).
- Feb: 7/05: Saanich Council passes a resolution to support the District of Metchosin's request regarding preservation of sections 25, 28, 29, and 95 as greenspace, and to request the provincial government respect the RGS and negotiate an implementation agreement to ensure that provincial ministries and agencies work towards the goals of the RGS (Attachment B).

DISCUSSION:

Implementation Agreements are a relatively new mechanism in planning legislation. Under section 868 (1) of the Local Government Act (LGA), local governments may enter into agreements respecting the coordination of activities related to the implementation of a regional growth strategy.

The draft Master Implementation Agreement circulated to members of DPAC in March 2004 was prepared under this section of the LGA.

Section 868 (2), enables the Provincial government to entering into implementation agreements respecting Provincial commitments to act consistently with a regional growth strategy and to take actions necessary to implement a regional growth strategy. Implementation agreements can also be made with the federal government and its agencies, other local governments, first nations, school district boards, greater boards and other authorities.

The 2005 RGS work plan calls for the completion of the MIA noted above. As noted in the committee resolutions of November 19, 2003 it is the intention of the CRD to negotiate two implementation agreements: the first (the MIA) respecting the regional urban containment and servicing policy area; and a second, with the province, regarding provincial, roles, responsibilities and commitments to the RGS. At this point, no work has been undertaken on this second implementation agreement, though it is an item for initiation in the 2005 RGS work plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Regional Planning Committee receive this report for information.

RGS CONSISTENCY:

The implementation agreements described in this report are key measures necessary to effectively implement the RGS.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

Mark Hornell, MCIP
Director of Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director