

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
Regional Planning Services Department**

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, September 21, 2005

SUBJECT:

Regional Context Statements for Central Saanich, Saanich, Victoria and Sidney.

BACKGROUND:

Aug. 13/03: CRD Regional Growth Strategy approved by the Board.
Oct. 27/04: Oak Bay RCS approved by Board.
Aug. 03/05: Central Saanich RCS submitted. (Attachment A)
Aug. 12/05: Saanich RCS submitted. (Attachment C)
Aug. 13/05: RCS deadline for submission to the Board.
Aug. 16/05: Victoria RCS submitted. (Attachment D)
Aug. 22/05: Sidney RCS submitted. (Attachment E)

DISCUSSION:

Legislative requirements under *Local Government Act*, section 866, require each municipality, within two years of the date of adoption, to amend its official community plan (OCP) by including an RCS. The RCS must identify the relationship between the OCP and the RGS and if applicable, specify how the OCP will be made consistent with the RGS over time. The context statement is prepared by the municipality as an amendment to the OCP. It is binding on the municipal council and therefore acts as a key implementation mechanism of the RGS. It should determine:

1. The extent to which the OCP is consistent with the RGS;
2. If it is not consistent, how the municipality intends to bring itself into consistency;
3. The elements of the RGS that *are not* applicable to the municipality;
4. The elements of the RGS that *should not* apply to the municipality; and,
5. The elements of the OCP subject to inter-municipal and regional review.

Under the Act, a municipality refers its RCS to the Board for review and acceptance. The board must respond by resolution within 120 days after receipt indicating whether or not it accepts the RCS and, if the board refuses to accept the RCS, indicating:

- a) Each provision to which it objects, and
- b) The reasons for its objection.

If the Board fails to act within the period for acceptance or refusal, the board is deemed by the Act to have accepted the RCS.

Several RCSs have not been submitted to the Board yet. Sooke has asked Minister Chong for an extension to complete the boundary extension process. Highlands, Metchosin, North Saanich and Esquimalt are currently reviewing their OCPs. View Royal and Colwood are currently working on their RCSs. Staff are in discussion with Langford on the finalization of their RCS for presentation to the Committee at the October meeting.

All four RCS submitted for acceptance are well prepared, thorough, and consistent with the RGS.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Regional Planning Committee recommends to the Board that it resolve to:

- 1) Accept the Regional Context Statement for the City of Victoria, Bylaw No. 05-61, and notify Council to this effect.
- 2) Accept the Regional Context Statement for the District of Saanich, Bylaw No. 8699, and notify Council to this effect.
- 3) Accept the Regional Context Statement for the District of Central Saanich, Bylaw No. 1528, and notify Council to this effect.
- 4) Accept the Regional Context Statement for the Town of Sidney, Bylaw No. 1860, and notify Council to this effect.

RGS CONSISTENCY

The regional context statements proposed for acceptance are consistent with RGS.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

Mark Hornell, MCIP
Director, Regional Planning Services

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Kelly Daniels
Chief Administrative Officer
Attachments
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