

Notice to Electors within the Capital Regional District

Alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 4575 to authorize the establishment of a new regional service for the purpose of coordinating a regional approach to biodiversity, protection of ecological assets and environmental stewardship.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Capital Regional District ("CRD") proposes to adopt Bylaw No. 4575, "*Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Coordination Establishing Bylaw No. 1, 2023*". The service area applies to all municipalities and electoral areas of the CRD.

The proposed Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Coordination service was identified in the CRD Board's 2023-2026 Strategic Priorities to "explore options for a regional approach to biodiversity and the protection of ecological assets". Protecting and enhancing regional biodiversity and ecological assets will help build climate resiliency, improve watershed and harbour health, support food security and enhance the livability, sustainability and resilience of the region through environmental stewardship.

The purpose of Bylaw No. 4575 is to establish a new regional service for the purpose of coordinating a regional approach to biodiversity, protection of ecological assets and environmental stewardship. The service will include conducting research, obtaining data, managing problem species, establishing partnerships with government and non-government organizations including First Nations, and facilitating an environmental stewardship strategy along with public outreach and education.

The maximum amount that can be requisitioned for the service is five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) or an amount equal to the amount that could be raised by a property value tax rate of \$0.0028 per one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to the net taxable value of the land and improvements within the service area.

The proposed service area applies to all municipalities and electoral areas of the Capital Regional District, including Central Saanich, Colwood, Esquimalt, Highlands, Langford, Metchosin, North Saanich, Oak Bay, Saanich, Sidney, Sooke, Victoria, View Royal, and the Electoral Areas of Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island, and Southern Gulf Islands. Participating area consent will be obtained by conducting a region wide alternative approval process.

Please note that this synopsis of Bylaw No. 4575 is not intended to be or understood as an interpretation of the bylaw. A copy of the complete bylaw and this notice may be viewed at Capital Regional District office located at 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays). The bylaw may also be viewed at www.crd.bc.ca/biodiversity-aap.

Take further notice that the CRD may proceed with Bylaw No. 4575 unless at least 33,194 electors (constituting 10% of eligible electors) within the Capital Regional District indicate, by signing the elector response form, that the Board must obtain the assent of the electors by way of an assent vote (referendum) before proceeding to adopt Bylaw No. 4575.

The elector response must be in the form as established by the CRD and is available from the CRD on request or from the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca/biodiversity-aap. The only persons entitled to sign elector response forms are electors of the area to which the alternative approval process opportunity applies. The alternative approval process applies to all municipalities and electoral areas of the CRD, including Central Saanich, Colwood, Esquimalt, Highlands, Langford, Metchosin, North Saanich, Oak

Bay, Saanich, Sidney, Sooke, Victoria, View Royal, and the Electoral Areas of Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island, and Southern Gulf Islands.

The deadline for submitting signed elector response forms, in relation to Bylaw No. 4575, to the CRD is **4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15, 2025**. Forms must be received by the deadline to be counted.

A copy of the elector response form may be downloaded from: www.crd.bc.ca/biodiversity-aap.

To obtain an elector response form, or for questions about the alternative approval process, contact Legislative Services, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 1R7, email legserv@crd.bc.ca, telephone 250.360.3024 or toll free 1.800.663.4425 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays).

Questions regarding Bylaw No. 4575 may be directed to Glenn Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC, 250.360.3090, gharris@crd.bc.ca, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays) from the date of this notice until January 15, 2025.

Qualifications for Resident and Non-Resident Property Electors

Resident Elector: You are entitled to submit an elector response form as a Resident Elector if you are 18 years or older on the date of submission of the elector response form, are a Canadian citizen, have resided in British Columbia for at least 6 months and currently reside in the Capital Regional District prior to signing the elector response form.

Non-Resident Property Elector: You may submit an elector response form as a Non-Resident Property Elector if you are 18 years or older on the date of submission of the elector response form, are a Canadian citizen, have resided in British Columbia for 6 months, have owned and held registered title to property in the Capital Regional District for 30 days and do NOT qualify as a Resident Elector. If there is more than one registered owner of the property (either as joint tenants or tenants in common) only one individual may, with the written consent of the majority, submit an elector response form.

Elector response forms, a copy of Bylaw No. 4575, and a copy of this Notice may be inspected during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays) from the date of this notice until **4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15, 2025** at the following CRD locations:

- CRD headquarters, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria
- on the CRD website: www.crd.bc.ca/biodiversity-aap.

Given under my hand at Victoria, BC this 21st day of November 2024.

Kristen Morley
Corporate Officer