

REGIONAL CONTEXT STATEMENT EVALUATION

The Regional Context Statement (RCS) has been reviewed in accordance with the evaluation framework approved by the CRD Board on April 11, 2018. The evaluation framework relies on the three criteria shown below.

1. **All relevant content is included:** The regional context statement addresses all Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) content relevant to the Official Community Plan (OCP). Content that is not applicable in the context of the OCP should be identified as “not applicable”.

***Example:** The regional context statement contains headers, sections, a table or other such format that clearly identifies each applicable RGS objective. Should an objective not apply, such as if a municipality contains no identified food or farmlands, the context statement would note that the objective does not apply.*





2. **Clearly articulates relevant content:** The regional context statement provides a sufficient level of detail to convey how the specific OCP content relates to the RGS.

***Example:** The regional context statement provides content specificity such that it is clear what the Board is accepting. An example is: “RGS Objective X is implemented by building in “...” location, at a range of “...” densities and proximate to “...” services.” A context statement with content as follows: “RGS Objective X is implemented with OCP policies A, B and C” would not be sufficiently specific.*

3. **Plan to be consistent over time:** The regional context statement identifies how the OCP will become consistent with the RGS over time, if content is not immediately consistent.

***Example:** A regional context statement identifies that a municipality will undertake a population projection to determine how to align with the RGS population projections over time.*

Table 1. Regional Context Statement Evaluation Framework

		Relationship to Legislative Requirement For CRD* Board consideration		
LGA	RCS Content	All relevant content is included	Clearly articulates relevant content	Plan to be consistent over time
429(2)(a)	Identify how the OCP relates to the RGS vision on p. 1 of the RGS.			N/A
		The RCS addresses all seven topic areas from the RGS.	The RCS references a wide range of OCP policy that identify how the vision of the RGS will be supported.	
429(2)(b)	Identify how the OCP relates to the projections provided in Table 1 of the RGS.			N/A
		The RCS does not reference the population, dwelling, and employment projections from RGS Table 1.	The RCS references housing targets based on the current Housing Needs Report, with OCP policies that support the targets. The targets are aligned with the projections of RGS Table 1. Population and employment projections are not addressed in the RCS.	

Legend: Regional Context Statement Evaluation



Strong alignment with evaluation criteria; recommend approval






Moderate alignment with evaluation criteria; recommend approval



Weak alignment with evaluation criteria; do not recommend approval

Relationship to Legislative Requirement
For CRD* Board consideration

LGA	RCS Content	All relevant content is included	Clearly articulates relevant content	Plan to be consistent over time
Managing and Balancing Growth (Objectives 1.1 & 1.2)				
429(2)(c) and (d); 429(3)	Identify how the OCP relates to the RGS.	 <p>Overall, the RCS identifies how the OCP aligns with RGS objectives for managing and balancing growth.</p> <p>However, the RCS does not address the “multi-family residential” or “future growth areas” that create an inconsistency between OCP land use designations and the RGS.</p>	 <p>The RCS appropriately acknowledges the District of North Saanich’s (North Saanich) place within the region as a largely rural community that is currently outside of the Urban Containment Policy Area (UCPA).</p> <p>The RCS references OCP policies that focus on protection of the rural character of the community. This is to be accomplished by preserving lot sizes and agricultural uses.</p> <p>However, the RCS does not address the OCP Land Use Designations (Schedule B) that shows “multi-family residential” and “future growth area” in areas outside of the UCPA. These land use designations are not aligned with RGS policy that does not support urban style growth outside of the UCPA.</p> <p>** More detailed discussion of this misalignment and proposed solutions are discussed in greater detail in the attached staff report.</p>	 <p>Section 447(1)(a) and (b) of the <i>Local Government Act</i> establishes that, when not aligned with the RGS, the RCS must indicate how the OCP will be made consistent over time with the UCPA.</p> <p>The RCS does not indicate how the OCP will be made consistent over time with the RGS with respect to proposed urban growth outside of the UCPA.</p>

Legend: Regional Context Statement Evaluation



Strong alignment with evaluation criteria; recommend approval



Moderate alignment with evaluation criteria; recommend approval



Weak alignment with evaluation criteria; do not recommend approval

Relationship to Legislative Requirement
For CRD Board consideration

LGA

RCS Content

All
relevant
content is
included

Clearly
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relevant
content

Plan to be
consistent
over time

Environment and Infrastructure (Objective 2.1 & 2.2)



The RCS identifies how the OCP aligns with RGS objectives for environmental protection, sustainability, and the efficient delivery of infrastructure.



The RCS supports RGS principles of protecting, conserving, and managing ecosystem health.

Alignment with the Capital Green Lands Policy Area is noted and the RCS highlights the importance of the recreational and environment values of preserving green spaces, blue spaces, and ecologically sensitive areas.

The RCS references OCP policies that help ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and habitat connectivity, preserve and enhance tree canopy, support climate change resiliency, delivery energy efficient and zero carbon buildings and transportation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and deliver carbon neutral corporate operations.

The RCS references OCP policies that align with RGS Objective 2.2 to manage regional infrastructure services sustainably.

N/A

Legend: Regional Context
Statement Evaluation



Strong alignment with evaluation
criteria; recommend approval





Moderate alignment with evaluation
criteria; recommend approval



Weak alignment with evaluation
criteria; do not recommend approval

Relationship to Legislative Requirement
For CRD Board consideration

LGA	RCS Content	All relevant content is included	Clearly articulates relevant content	Plan to be consistent over time
		Housing and Community (Objectives 3.1 & 3.2)		
				N/A
	The RCS identifies how the OCP aligns with RGS objectives for housing and complete communities.		The RCS notes that the North Saanich is currently entirely outside of the UCPA and that growth and development are to be focused on areas served by transit, away from hazards, and near daily needs. The RCS references the updated Housing Needs Report which supports a variety of housing types that support healthy, sustainable, and affordable development while striving to preserve the rural feel of the community. Housing affordability is addressed through a variety of policies that strive to explore opportunities for affordable home ownership, including a focus on secondary suites and accessory dwellings. As well, North Saanich supports collaboration with non-profit and private sector developers to achieve great affordability.	

Legend: Regional Context
Statement Evaluation



Strong alignment with evaluation
criteria; recommend approval



Moderate alignment with evaluation
criteria; recommend approval



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criteria; do not recommend approval

For CRD Board consideration

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RCS Content

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Clearly articulates relevant content

Plan to be consistent over time

Transportation (Objective 4.1)



The RCS identifies how the OCP aligns with RGS objectives for transportation.



The RCS notes North Saanich's Active Transportation Plan which supports improving multi-modal and sustainable transportation networks.

The RCS references OCP policies that support upgraded public transportation infrastructure and services, including frequent and rapid transit to serve business areas and higher housing density areas.

North Saanich encourages residents and businesses to use zero emission vehicles by supporting zero emission vehicle infrastructure.

The RCS also references OCP policy that encourages alternative transportation by implementing separated convenient pedestrian and cycling facilities.

N/A

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Statement Evaluation



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Moderate alignment with evaluation criteria; recommend approval



Weak alignment with evaluation criteria; do not recommend approval

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Economic Development (Objective 5.1)



The RCS identifies how the OCP aligns with RGS objectives for economic development.



The RCS expresses support for local agriculture, marine industries, and sustainable tourism and other economic activities that are compatible with the rural character of the community.

OCP policy is referenced that supports value added, intensive, and scaled-up production of agri-food products and related agri-tourism and food-related business development.

The RCS states that traditional development of retail, business and personal services plays a lesser role in North Saanich's land use pattern.

Traditional light industrial uses such as warehousing and manufacturing are located on the Airport Lands. The RCS states that these types of uses are not intended to expand to other parts of North Saanich.

N/A

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Statement Evaluation



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Food and Agricultural Systems (Objective 6.1)



The RCS identifies how the OCP aligns with RGS objectives for food and agricultural systems.



The RCS displays alignment between OCP and RGS policy to foster a resilient food and agriculture system.

Support for agriculture is a major goal of the OCP. A key objective is to preserve the use of agricultural lands. The RCS reference OCP policies that support food security in agricultural properties, smaller residential lots, and as a requirement in new multi-family developments.

Due to the prevalence of agricultural lands, North Saanich plays an important role in the region as one of the key production centres of the agri-food sector.

N/A

Legend: Regional Context
Statement Evaluation



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criteria; recommend approval



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criteria; do not recommend approval

Relationship to Legislative Requirement
For CRD Board consideration

LGA	RCS Content	All relevant content is included	Clearly articulates relevant content	Plan to be consistent over time
Climate Action (Objective 7.1)				
		<div>✓</div> <p>The RCS identifies how the OCP aligns with RGS objectives for climate action.</p>	<div>✓</div> <p>The RCS is aligned with the RGS objectives and policies for reducing community-based greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.</p> <p>OCP policy is referenced that sets targets for community-wide GHG emissions reductions and goals.</p> <p>The RCS notes the importance to North Saanich of planning for resilience to climate impacts by integrating climate change considerations into all decision-making and by implementing a District Climate Strategy and providing incentives to residents.</p> <p>A number of OCP policies are referenced relating to monitoring and reporting on progress toward climate goals and targets, maintaining accurate data on climate risk and vulnerability, support for energy and zero carbon step code requirements, and incorporating climate change and sustainability considerations in development permit areas.</p>	N/A

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Statement Evaluation



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Acronym*	
CRD	Capital Regional District
GHG	Greenhouse gas
LGA	<i>Local Government Act</i>
OCP	Official Community Plan
RCS	Regional Context Statement
RGS	Regional Growth Strategy
UCPA	Urban Containment Policy Area

Legend: Regional Context
Statement Evaluation



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