

**REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION
MEETING OF JULY 15, 2026**

SUBJECT **Designation of Watershed Security Officers**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To appoint additional Watershed Security Officers with authority to enforce Capital Regional District (CRD) Bylaw No. 2804, "CRD Water Supply Area Regulations", and Bylaw No. 4225, "CRD Parks Regulation".

BACKGROUND

Bylaw No. 2804, "CRD Water Supply Area Regulations", designates personnel authorized to enforce the bylaw. Authorized personnel are defined as "peace officer, conservation officer, or person appointed or employed by the CRD as a park officer, animal control officer, bylaw enforcement officer, watershed security officer, or other authorized CRD employee".

Watershed Security Officers were last appointed in September 2024 and since that time, a change in personnel requires appointment of one new officer and removal of one officer who left the CRD. This maintains the number of Watershed Security Officers at five. CRD staff appointed as Watershed Security Officers receive bylaw training and have experience with bylaw compliance and enforcement for the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area (GVWSA). Watershed Security Officers supplement the existing service of CRD Bylaw Enforcement Officers, who will continue to provide advice, additional coverage and assistance with serious and complex incidents in the GVWSA.

Bylaw No. 4225, "CRD Parks Regulation Bylaw", was amended in June 2017 to include Watershed Security Officers to provide authority to enforce park regulations along the Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail (portion of the Great Trail) through and near the GVWSA. Parks Officers were already designated with authority to enforce the Water Supply Area Regulation. Both CRD Regional Parks and Watershed Protection officers provide compliance and enforcement regardless of whether an infraction occurs within or outside of the trail corridor. Regional Parks and Watershed Protection staff liaise to provide a consistent approach with the public in providing compliance and enforcement along the trail and within the Drinking Water Protection Zone of Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park.

Pursuant to Section 233 of the *Local Government Act* and Section 28(3) of the *Offence Act*, and in accordance with CRD Bylaw No. 2681, "CRD Enforcement Officers Bylaw", the CRD Board must make resolutions for appointment to the office of Watershed Security Officer.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends that the Capital Regional District Board: Appoint Hugh Slater as Watershed Security Officer, and remove Derek Hall from appointment, for the purpose of Section 233 of the *Local Government Act* and Section 28(3) of the *Offence Act*, and in accordance with Capital Regional District Bylaw No. 2681.

Alternative 2

Appoint no additional Watershed Security Officers at this time.

IMPLICATIONS

Service Delivery Implications

The appointment of Watershed Security Officers assists CRD staff in delivering on compliance and enforcement of the Water Supply Area Regulation to protect drinking water for Greater Victoria for the long term.

Social Implications

The ability to enforce the Water Supply Area Regulation is important in maintaining compliance and society's expectation for a closed watershed for drinking water. Designation of watershed officers provides the authority required when enforcement is needed. Increased residential growth in Langford and Goldstream is increasing pressure as members of the public look for new and interesting areas for recreation nearby. Existing security infrastructure (gates and fences) provides a visual barrier and a barrier to vehicles and motorcycles but cannot keep out pedestrians and cyclists without presence and enforcement.

CONCLUSION

To enforce Capital Regional District (CRD) Bylaw No. 2804, "CRD Water Supply Area Regulations", and Bylaw No. 4225, "CRD Parks Regulation", it is recommended that the CRD Board make resolutions for appointment to the office of Watershed Security Officer.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends that the Capital Regional District Board: Appoint Hugh Slater as Watershed Security Officer, and remove Derek Hall from appointment, for the purpose of Section 233 of the *Local Government Act* and Section 28(3) of the *Offence Act*, and in accordance with Capital Regional District Bylaw No. 2681.

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