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**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022**

SUBJECT **Electoral Areas Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2022 (Bylaw No. 4492)**

ISSUE SUMMARY

Approval of a water conservation bylaw for the Electoral Areas.

BACKGROUND

Over the past several years, the need for water conservation measures in the Electoral Areas' local water services has become more critical due to seasonal drought conditions imposing stress on source water supplies. The Capital Regional District (CRD) Electoral Area water services have adhered to voluntary conservation measures since 2016 when staff and the Local Service Area water committees agreed to measures tailored to each individual service. The basis for the voluntary restrictions were the conservation stages set out in Bylaw No. 4099, "Consolidated Capital Regional District Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2016". However, there is a need to formalize these measures and add an enforcement provision in order to improve the effectiveness and adherence to the restrictions across the local services.

The Electoral Areas Water Conservation Bylaw applies to all of the CRD's electoral area water services, including:

Salt Spring Island Electoral Area:

- Beddis Water System (Bylaw No. 3188)
- Cedar Lane Water System (Bylaw No. 3424)
- Cedars of Tuam Water System (Bylaw No. 3021)
- Fulford Water System (Bylaw No. 3202)
- Highland/Fernwood Water System (Bylaw No. 3753)

Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area:

- Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water System (Bylaw No. 2920)
- Magic Lakes Water System (Bylaw No. 1874)
- Skana Water System (Bylaw No. 3089)
- Sticks Allison Water System (Bylaw No. 2556)
- Surfside Parks Water System (Bylaw No. 3087)

Juan de Fuca Electoral Area:

- Port Renfrew Water System (Bylaw No. 1747)
- Wilderness Mountain Water System (Bylaw No. 3503)

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4492, “Capital Regional District Electoral Areas Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2022”, be introduced and read a first, second, and third time; and
2. That Bylaw No. 4492 be adopted.
3. That Bylaw No. 4499, “Capital Regional District Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 74, 2022”, be introduced and read a first, second and third time; and,
4. That Bylaw No. 4499 be adopted.

Alternative 2

That CRD Bylaws No. 4492 and 4499 be referred back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Service Delivery Implications

Similar to the Regional Water Conservation Bylaw, adherence to water conservation measures are best managed through education and proactive communications to increase the chances of voluntary behavioral change. These means have proven effective for a number of years in reducing water demand in the systems in which they are requested. However, the addition of a bylaw will provide formalization and standardization of language as well as provide a venue for enforcement in the event it is required.

Bylaw No. 4492 only applies to the regulation of water use provided under each CRD local service. It does not apply to private wells or water systems provided by other public authorities.

Financial Implications

The costs of promoting and enforcing Bylaw No. 4992 would be borne by the specific service in which the action is taken as an operational expenditure. However, the Electoral Areas will benefit from the Regional approach to education and promotion thereby reducing the costs to more localized education and enforcement as required.

Environmental & Climate Implications

The Electoral Areas Water Conservation Bylaw aligns with the regional water conservation bylaw and is consistent with CRD’s strategic goals to provide adequate and long term supply of drinking water to the customers in which each system serves. It forms part of the planning and preparation for future water supply needs to meet demand and consider the impacts of climate change, population growth and per-capita demand trends. It is the foundation of a strategy to reduce per capita water use in order to defer the need for additional water supply and treatment capacity in the supply system, until necessary to support population growth.

CONCLUSION

Bylaw No. 4492, “Capital Regional District Electoral Areas Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2022”, is recommended to formalize language and measures already requested voluntarily of the customers of the CRD’s water systems in the Electoral Areas. It will allow for standardized water conservation stages, the adherence to which would be primarily through education and proactive communications measures. However, the bylaw also includes a provision for enforcement in the event that is required to drive behavior.

RECOMMENDATION

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4492, “Capital Regional District Electoral Areas Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2022”, be introduced and read a first, second, and third time; and
2. That Bylaw No. 4492 be adopted.
3. That Bylaw No. 4499, “Capital Regional District Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 74, 2022”, be introduced and read a first, second and third time; and,
4. That Bylaw No. 4499 be adopted.

Submitted by:	Matt McCrank, MSc, P.Eng., Senior Manager, Wastewater Infrastructure Operations
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B.Sc., C.Tech., General Manager, Integrated Water Services
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: Bylaw No. 4492, “Electoral Areas Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2022”
Appendix B: Bylaw No. 4499, “Capital Regional District Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 74, 2022”