



**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018**

SUBJECT **Adoption of Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 4017**

ISSUE

To adopt Bylaw No. 4017 "Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1, 2016".

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act* (the *Act*) sets out requirements for the preparation, adoption, implementation and monitoring of Regional Growth Strategies (RGS). Section 436 of the *Act* requires that all municipalities accept a RGS before it can be adopted as bylaw.

Seven municipalities rejected the RGS when the document was first referred for acceptance in December 2016. Through 2017, the Capital Regional District (CRD) and participating municipalities undertook a non-binding mediation process to settle disputed (RGS) provisions. Non-binding mediation sessions were held on December 6 and 7, 2017 and generated solutions to all disputed RGS provisions.

On January 10, 2018, the CRD Board gave first and second reading to a revised RGS bylaw, updated to reflect solutions generated by non-binding mediation.

On January 15, 2018, the CRD referred the revised RGS bylaw to municipalities for acceptance as per section 439 of the *Act*.

By March 5, 2018, all municipalities resolved to accept the revised RGS. Letters of acceptance are shown in Appendix A.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

- a) That the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board give third reading and adopt Bylaw No. 4017 "Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1, 2016" (Appendix B);
- b) That the CRD Board direct staff to bring forward, for Board approval, a framework to guide Board consideration of Regional Context Statements as soon as possible; and
- c) That the CRD Board hold consideration of any Regional Context Statements for acceptance until a policy to guide their evaluation has been approved.

Alternative 2

That the Capital Regional District Board refer the report back to staff for further information.

IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Implications

Section 445 of the *Act* requires that all regional district bylaws and services adopted following RGS adoption be consistent with the RGS. Should RGS Bylaw No. 4017 be adopted, all new CRD bylaws and services must be consistent with the RGS.

Section 452 of the *Act* requires completion of an annual report and the establishment of a monitoring framework to track progress towards implementation of the RGS. Should RGS Bylaw No. 4017 be adopted, a monitoring framework will be operationalized and annual reports will be brought forward yearly to report on progress towards implementation.

Growth Management Implications

The CRD and local municipalities are responsible for implementing the RGS. A Regional Context Statement, adopted within a municipality's applicable Official Community Plan (OCP), relates OCP provisions to the RGS. The Regional Context Statement must be consistent with the OCP. Acceptance of the context statement is one of the CRD's key RGS implementation tools. Sections 446 – 449 of the *Act* establish the requirements for the preparation, acceptance and settlement of a Regional Context Statement.

As part of the RGS update project, interest was expressed in providing consistency across the region in terms of how the context statements are both prepared by municipalities and considered for acceptance by the CRD Board. Alternative 1 would direct staff to bring forward a framework, to guide consideration of Regional Context Statements. Alternative 1 would also have the Board hold consideration of any Regional Context Statements for acceptance until the framework has been approved. Alternative 1 would ensure that all Regional Context Statements brought forward for Board acceptance are evaluated equitably, according to the same Board-approved framework.

Timing Implications

Alternative 1 would allow for the Planning and Protective Services Committee to review a framework to guide Board consideration of Regional Context Statements on March 28, 2018. Board approval of the framework would be subsequent to that meeting. Any Regional Context Statements submitted for Board approval would be considered following adoption of a framework.

Intergovernmental Implications

Municipalities have two years from the date of RGS adoption to submit a Regional Context Statement to the CRD Board for acceptance. The CRD Board must accept the Regional Context Statement before an OCP can be adopted as bylaw. The referral period for CRD Board acceptance is 120 days. Should RGS Bylaw No. 4017 be adopted, municipalities will be required to submit a Regional Context Statement for CRD Board acceptance by March 2020 in accordance with the legislative requirements.

Financial Implications

RGS monitoring and reporting are an ongoing operational activity. Staff time and funds to undertake this work have been allocated accordingly. Funds to establish a monitoring framework are covered by the RGS grant. No new funding is required.

CONCLUSION

All municipalities have resolved to accept the RGS. Approaches for fulfilling legislative requirements and implementing the RGS are proposed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) That the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board give third reading and adopt Bylaw No. 4017 “Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1, 2016”;
- b) That the CRD Board direct staff to bring forward, for Board approval, a framework to guide Board consideration of Regional Context Statements as soon as possible; and
- c) That the CRD Board hold consideration of any Regional Context Statements for acceptance until a framework to guide their evaluation has been approved.

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Concurrence:	Signe Bagh, MCIP, RPP, Senior Manager, Regional & Strategic Planning
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P.Eng., MBA, General Manager Planning & Protective Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ES:SB

Attachments: Appendix A - Record of Resolutions to Accept the RGS
Appendix B - Bylaw No. 4017 “Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1, 2016”