

# The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich

April 10, 2015

Signe Bagh, Senior Manager, Regional and Strategic Planning Planning and Protective Services Capital Regional District 625 Fisgard Street Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Dear Ms. Bagh:

Re: CRD Regional Sustainability Strategy and "Future Growth Area"

At the Regular Council meeting held February 16, 2015, Council resolved as follows:

That Council include on the Planning & Development Committee agenda of March 9, 2015, discussion and public opportunity to comment on the Capital Regional District's Regional Sustainability Strategy; and that meeting be promoted for further public participation and attendance.

The RSS was subsequently discussed at the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Planning and Development Committee meeting, and then at the Regular Council Meeting held March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Council resolved as follows:

That on recommendation of the Planning & Development Committee (Resolution 173.15), the Agricultural Land Reserve mapping be included in the Capital Regional District Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS).

That on recommendation of the Planning & Development Committee (Resolution 174.15), public notification be provided by way of a mail out inviting community residents and property owners to provide input regarding the Capital Regional District's Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) at a Special Committee meeting, to be held at a location larger than Council Chambers to accommodate the attendees, and further that the Capital Regional District be informed that Council is currently reviewing the area defined as the Future Growth Area (FGA)in the RSS.

That Council request that the Advisory Planning Commission consider providing any early-stage comments feedback regarding the RSS.

That the RSS be referred to the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) after Council has adopted the Terms of Reference for the AAC.

That Council invite the community to provide input on the Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) and more specifically on the Future Growth Area (FGA) within Central Saanich, at a Special Planning & Development Committee Meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at a location such as the Saanich Fairgrounds, and further that the invitation:

- be forwarded via unaddressed ad mail,
- include a link to the CRD's RSS website and the FGA information,
- include a map of the area in question and state the reason of the expansion being potential future industrial use.

That the mail out include key points (when, where, why), refer to the District's website, and include information bullets from the introduction of the RSS brochure regarding broad principles the RSS is trying to achieve.

That the District of Central Saanich seek feedback on the RSS from the Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

I have enclosed a copy of the notice being sent out alerting residents to the special committee meeting being held at the Saanich Fairgrounds on April 22, 2015. We will forward any further feedback from Council as it becomes available.

If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to email the undersigned at bruce.greig@csaanich.ca or call 250-544-4214.

Sincerely,

Bruce Greig, mcip, bcsla

Director of Planning and Building Services

att.

C. Patrick Robins, Chief Administrative Officer Susan Palmer, Sr. Project Coordinator, CRD



## The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich

### WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

**TOPIC:** Proposed Future Growth Area in

**Draft Regional Sustainability Strategy** 

WHEN: 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, 2015

**Special Council Committee Meeting** 

WHERE: Saanich Fairgrounds

1528 Stellys Cross Road, Saanichton

Central Saanich council is seeking the public's input on a proposed Future Growth Area. This meeting is an opportunity for the community to provide Council with your input on the proposal to include this policy in the draft regional growth strategy.

A sustainable region is vibrant and adaptable, providing a high quality of life while caring for the future. To prepare for the next 20 years, the Capital Regional District (CRD) is updating its Regional Growth Strategy to a Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS), a shared vision for the region that will guide decisions to 2038. The CRD is developing the Strategy to ensure we continue to enjoy where we live, work and play in the future. Climate change, population growth, natural resources, community and economic vitality, housing and transportation are among the topics addressed in the draft RSS. The strategy lists the following objectives for our region:

- 1. Significantly reduce community-based greenhouse gas emissions
- 2. Be resilient to climate change impacts and natural hazards
- 3. Manage growth
- 4. Foster individual and community wellbeing (includes economic development)
- 5. Conserve and enhance our natural environment
- 6. Provide cost-effective infrastructure and services

As part of the development of the RSS, in 2013 Central Saanich Council looked at the long term vision for development in the District and provided the CRD with input on a proposed "Future Growth Area". This area, identified near Keating Cross Road and West Saanich Road, is a potential future area for expansion of the Keating Business Park and industrial area. Council submitted input to the CRD suggesting these lands be designated as a future growth policy area.

A special meeting is being held by Council to hear input from the community on this proposed designation in the RSS which anticipates possible long-term land use changes in the area.

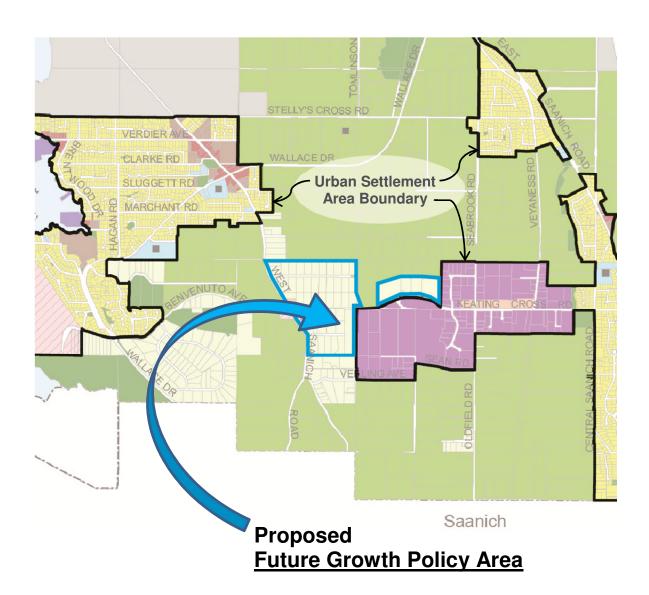
The following appears in the DRAFT CRD RSS:

### Future Growth Area

This land use policy area includes lands identified to accommodate future employment growth and intended to have full urban services (water and sewer) and infrastructure. Future Growth Areas may be re-designated as GCA in Map 4: Growth Containment Area in conjunction with a re-designation to General Employment and/or Industrial Lands on Map 5: Growth Centres, General Employment and Industrial Land subject to approval of a Minor Amendment to the RSS in accordance with the provisions of Part 4, Type 3 Minor Amendments.

For additional information please visit **www.centralsaanich.ca** and select "Regional Sustainability Strategy" from the District Projects drop down menu on the homepage.

Information on the Regional Growth Strategy can also be found at www.crd.bc.ca





File: 0470-43

February 24, 2015

Mr. Bob Lapham
Chief Administrative Officer
Capital Regional District
PO Box 1000
Victoria BC V8W 2S6

Re: District of Highlands Comments into the Draft Regional Sustainability Strategy

Dear Mr. Lapham:

In response to the recent public feedback campaign, we are pleased for the opportunity to comment on the draft Regional Sustainability Strategy.

Council considered the draft RSS over two meetings and it is the District's intention for these comments to constructively provide views that represent Highlands' strongly rural viewpoint. The District maintains a strong commitment to providing alternatives to urban development; to preserve nature; and to provide nature oriented recreation opportunities for the region. The continued protection of these rural values are considered in the highest of the community's priorities.

### Council's comments:

- 1. The Vision and Objectives are key elements of the RSS and in their current form miss the opportunity to position the Strategy as a fundamental tool to protect natural areas and contain and manage growth. As a result, the RSS appears to be a weaker document in this regard than the current RGS and does not have adequate emphasis on keeping growth compact and protecting rural and natural areas. Inclusion of specific references to managing growth are considered to be critical components in the vision to ensure that it is a clear objective of the RSS.
- 2. Overall, the reduced focus on growth management increases the vulnerability of rural areas, in particular through the creation of additional flexibility to provide services outside the growth containment area and by establishing opportunities for amendments to the RSS at the Board's discretion instead of engaging each municipal council in a more thoughtful process.

. . . /2

- 3. Highlands Council does not support any piped/regional water services outside of the Growth Containment Area. Context:
  - (i) Expansion of piped water into rural areas would come at a cost not sustainably recovered by present density, and could force growth for cost effectiveness resulting in densities that would otherwise not be required or desired.
  - (ii) It also jeopardizes water infrastructure that serves present populations. Rural piping may have less established infrastructure to secure its intactness in the event of either natural disasters or climate change disasters. Having one area of any system more prone to damage risks greater impacts to the overall system. This contradicts resiliency. To this end, smaller scale systems are more resilient and less costly overall.
- (iii) The "right to water" should be directed at right to "safe, potable" groundwater or surface water, not to "right to water services".
- (iv) The RSS looks to create greater resiliency in the region but the emphasis on a single water system seems to create greater dependency and vulnerability.
- 4. Highlands Council cannot over emphasize the need to protect groundwater and surface water resources. Local Governments need to have more influence over these issues. There appears to be a strong emphasis on using only one water source regional piped water. Sustainability means creating climate change resiliency, and one way of doing this is by giving consideration to alternative water strategies that are not reliant on expansion of the regional water system or the reservoir. This is especially relevant outside of the Growth Containment Area.
- 5. Highlands Council accepts that the RSS is a policy document, and expresses the need for an Implementation Plan as a companion document to the RSS. An Implementation Plan was not implemented with the 2003 RGS, and doing so for the 2015 RSS is considered critical to see its actions carried out.

### 6. Targets:

- (i) "Climate":
  - i. This target does not take into account full consumption emissions as well as production emissions. It only considers "operational" emissions, which are just a part of consumption emissions.

The result is that the full spectrum of GHG emissions accounting is not used in the calculation, and therefore the result is incomplete and potentially misleading to the public.

- While it may or may not be possible to capture the full accounting in a target, the RSS should clearly define what emissions are not accounted for and include discussion about the importance of being aware of the full spectrum of emissions in order to affect meaningful change.
- ii. In keeping with a desire to account for the full spectrum of GHG emissions, is an idea that "size matters". If there were less overall consumables and if certain consumables were smaller, as in house size for example, overall emissions would be smaller. Thus, a suggested target for "Climate" is an overall reduction in average house size across the region.

### (ii) "Communities":

- i. "New Growth Dwelling Units": There should be a higher growth target for areas within the growth centres, in order to create compact, cost-efficient communities within well-defined urban growth boundaries and discourage rural sprawl.
- ii. "Jobs/Population": Highlands Council is in favour of seeing a higher jobs/population target for the urbanized areas of the West Shore and linking land use planning to transportation planning. There are still too many commuters, and having a higher jobs-to-population ration would reduce job-related transportation GHG emissions and contribute to creating more complete communities.
- iii. "Growth Management":
   Highlands Council supports keeping urban development compact and support rural protection not sprawling development.
- (iii) "Mobility Transportation Mode Shift and Zero Emission Vehicles": Highlands Council supports the mobility targets.
- (iv) "Wellbeing": While the Wellbeing targets are somewhat outside of municipal control, they are still important because it represents long-established values of the region, and is something for which to strive.
- (v) "Agriculture": Highlands Council supports maintaining the ALR, and offer the challenge to increase agriculture in non-traditional ways. Conventional agriculture goes against other goals within the RSS.
  For example, conventional agriculture uses too much water; it releases contaminants
  - into the groundwater (pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers), frees carbon instead of sequestering it, and increases vulnerability to climate change.
- (vi) "Natural Environment Sea-to-Sea Green Blue Belt and Conservation of Nature": Highlands Council supports acquiring 100% of Sea-to-Sea Green Blue Belt, and supports the conservation of nature target.
- (vii) "Infrastructure": Highlands Council agrees with Infrastructure target.

- (viii) "Water": The Water target is contradictory in that the RSS proposes to allow water outside the Growth Containment Area, which is an expansion of the regional water supply area. The region should seek alternative water strategies and systems that are not reliant on the regional water supply and related reservoir expansion.
- (ix) "Waste": Highlands Council recommends having a target that is a maximum amount for the entire region, resulting in a target that would seek to see a declining amount of waste per capita over time.
- (x) "Emergency Preparedness": Highlands Council supports this target.
- (xi) "Energy": Highlands Council supports this target.
- 7. Highlands Council supports a "Rural Mobility Hub"/"Park and Ride" on the Langford/Highlands border closer than what is currently indicated.
- 8. Secondary accommodation is an emerging issue in Highlands and could have an impact in connection with growth within the regional context statement as the issue becomes better defined. Highlands Council wishes to have the flexibility to determine these local matters within the adopted RSS.
- 9. Highlands Council is not in favour of any minor amendment process, and recommends there only be the major amendment process for any change to the RSS. There is a potential serious and compounding effect of eroding the integrity of the Growth Containment Area over time through allowing small, incremental increases to it through minor amendments.
- 10. Highlands Council supports strong wording toward Provincial and federal governments to support high standards for industry in the areas of public health and environmental protection.
  - For example, Action 4.4.8 could state: "Provincial agencies are requested to: Continue to address environmental and community impacts of aggregate and mineral mining, groundwater depletion and contamination by industrial and commercial users in collaboration with municipal and regional governments."
- 11. As has been done in the past, it would be very useful to have a Forum of Councils for the CRD to encourage a regional conversation of the draft RSS.

- 12. Removing the Unprotected Green Space layer could result in a loss of green space protection resulting from the deference to local jurisdiction and regional context statements.
- 13. Highlands Council is of the opinion that "sustainable growth" is a contradiction of terms. For example, a sustainable activity is one that can be carried on indefinitely. Any activity that requires resources is thus limited to the availability of those resources. "Growth" inherently requires an increasing amount of resources, and thus is not truly sustainable within a finite world. Therefore, while the draft RSS has the best of intentions, Highlands Council submits that a sustainability strategy that has growth at its centre is a contradiction unto itself. Highlands Council is more concerned with the management of growth for the region, and offers caution in using the term "sustainability".
- 14. Regarding Policy 1.5 "Protect the carbon sequestration value of natural resource lands and the regional tree canopy": Highlands Council respects research done noting the value of wetlands in carbon sequestration, and would like to see
  - (i) Action 1.5.2 amended to read: "We, the CRD, agree to: Collaborate with the province to develop indicators and targets to measure the carbon sequestration of forested lands and wetlands."
  - (ii) The sidebar on page 93 entitled, "Nature's Services," to include carbon sequestration in wetlands.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Beckett, Municipal Planner, at 250-474-1773 or LBeckett@highlands.ca.

Sincerely,

Christopher D. Coates

Chief Administrative Officer

LB/lc

cc: Via email to klorette@crd.bc.ca , sbagh@crd.bc.ca , spalmer@crd.bc.ca



2015/03/20

E-mail: sbagh@crd.bc.ca

Signe Bagh
Senior Manager, Regional and Strategic Planning
Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard Street
PO Box 1000
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Dear Signe Bagh:

RE: 2014 Draft Regional Sustainability Strategy

Please find attached a certified copy of Langford Council's resolution from their meeting of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, with respect to the 2014 draft Regional Sustainability Strategy.

Sincerely,

Lindy Kaercher Deputy Clerk

Attachment



### RESOLUTION

b) Planning, Zoning and Affordable Housing Committee – February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 Regional Sustainability Strategy (Planning)

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR BLACKWELL SECONDED: COUNCILLOR WADE

### That Council:

- 1. Receive this report and the draft Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) for information; and
- 2. Refer this report and the draft RSS to the Westshore Developers Association for information and comment; and
- 3. Resolve that the CRD should delay in scheduling the Public Hearing for the RSS until the following concerns have been addressed:
  - a) Policy relating to growth outside of the Urban Containment Boundary should be strengthened such that no growth or water extension should be supported unless additional permanent local employment opportunities are created:
  - b) Policy relating to removing land from the ALR should be softened to reflect that the ultimate approving authority for ALR lands rests with the Agricultural Land Commission, not with the CRD or local municipalities. Furthermore, where requests for ALR exclusion are submitted with respect to lands that may not be used for viable agricultural purposes, an overall benefit to the community should be demonstrated, whether this is the generation of additional employment lands, lands for affordable housing projects, where an increase to the agricultural capacity on other lands within the community are proposed to offset the proposed removal, or where another type of significant community benefit is proposed;
  - Maps 3 and 5 should be changed to soften the boundaries of the Growth Centre's and Land Use Designations such that local municipalities have the discretion to consider minor amendments to their Official Community Plan land use designations without triggering an amendment to the RSS;
  - d) Policy relating to "Nature Needs Half" should be further explained, including how, if at all, this is intended to apply to private property that may be developed within the Urban Containment Boundary;
  - e) Policy that dictates what local municipalities are to include in the Regional Context Statements of their Official Community Plans should be removed, as local municipalities should have the autonomy to determine how their OCP implements the policies and objectives of the Regional Sustainability Strategy.
- 4. Direct staff to share Council's concerns with the draft RSS, as outlined in item 3 above, with the CRD, Colwood, View Royal, and Esquimalt.

This is a certified resolution passed by the City of Langford at their Regular Meeting of Council on March

Lindy/Kaercher Deputy Clerk

2nd, 2015

### City of Victoria

# MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015, 2:00 P.M.

### 1. THE CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 2:00 P.M.

**Committee Members Present:** Mayor Helps in the Chair; Councillors

Coleman, Isitt, Loveday, Madoff, Thornton-

Joe and Young.

**Absent:** Councillors Alto and Lucas

**Staff Present:** J. Johnson – City Manager; P. Bruce – Fire

Chief; K. Hamilton - Director of Civic

Engagement & Strategic Planning; J. Jenkyns – General Manager of the Victoria Conference Centre; R. Woodland – Director of Legislative & Regulatory Services; A. Hudson – Assistant Director of Community Development; C. Mycroft – Assistant to City Manager; C.

Havelka – Recording Secretary.

Guests: N. Jensen - Chair, R. Lapham, D. Lokken, L.

Hutcheson, T. Robbins, K. Lorette, and S.

Bagh – CRD.

### 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Action:

### 2.1 Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Young, that the Agenda of the February 16, 2015, Special Governance & Priorities

Committee meeting be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC** 

#### 3. CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT PRESENTATION

Nils Jensen, Chair of Capital Regional District (CRD), led Committee through a PowerPoint Presentation that provided an overview of the services and strategic initiatives of the CRD. Senior staff provided information on their areas of responsibility within the CRD and outlined the aims and regional context of the Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) and next steps for this initiative. Committee were provided with a handout entitled *2014 Requisition and Invoices* and provided information on how services are budgeted throughout the CRD.

Committee discussed the following:

- The relatively high amount Victoria residents pay for CRD services.
- The shared levy for the Royal Theatre and the sole levy to the City for the MacPherson Theatre:

- Convincing other municipalities to participate in the MacPherson Theatre services when the land is transferred from the City to the CRD and working towards that goal.
- The municipalities that participate in the Arts Committee.
- The suggestion that local government policing be a CRD service.
- Making improvements to the Galloping Goose Trail.
- Proposed improvements at the Smith Hill Reservoir and working with the Hillside/Quadra community on possible amenities.
- The participation in the Regional Housing Trust Fund by all municipalities.
- The issue of illegal garbage dumping and using education to address this issue.
- The kitchen scraps program and information regarding organics disposal for the region and enforcement of the ban at the landfill.
- The process by which the Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) received input from municipalities and the approval process.
- The issue of urban sprawl the how that is addressed through the process of amendments.
- The projected population/de-population in certain municipalities.

Mayor Helps left the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Councillor Isitt assumed the Chair.

- The food systems policy and incorporating that into farmland protection.
- Ensuring that community well-being is fostered in individual communities through placemaking.

Committee thanked the CRD Board Chair and staff for their presentation.

Committee received a report dated March 11, 2015 on the Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS), and the Assistant Director of Community Planning provided an update on the RSS.

### Action:

- It was moved by Councillor Madoff, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that Committee recommends:
- That Council receive this report for information to coincide with the
  presentation of the draft Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) by
  representatives of the Capital Regional District (CRD) at a special meeting
  of the Governance and Priorities Committee schedule for March 23, 2015.
- 2. That staff report back to Council with comments on the proposed Regional Sustainability Strategy for Council's consideration to provide formal comments to the CRD as part of the formal referral process.

# <u>Amendment:</u> It was moved by Councillor Madoff, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that Committee amend the motion as follows:

- That Council receive this report for information to coincide with the
  presentation of the draft Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) by
  representatives of the Capital Regional District (CRD) at a special meeting
  of the Governance and Priorities Committee schedule for March 23, 2015.
- 2. That staff report back to Council with comments on the proposed Regional Sustainability Strategy for Council's consideration, **including discussions through the CRD in terms of supportive language regarding a sense of**

place and placemaking within each municipality's jurisdiction, and provide formal comments to the CRD as part of the formal referral process.

On the amendment:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

Committee noted the comments the CRD received from Victoria residents which should be taken into consideration.

<u>Amendment:</u> It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee amend the motion as follows:

- That Council receive this report for information to coincide with the
  presentation of the draft Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) by
  representatives of the Capital Regional District (CRD) at a special meeting
  of the Governance and Priorities Committee schedule for March 23, 2015.
- 2. That staff report back to Council with comments on the proposed Regional Sustainability Strategy for Council's consideration, including discussions through the CRD in terms of supportive language regarding a sense of place and placemaking within each municipality's jurisdiction, and provide formal comments to the CRD as part of the formal referral process, and considering comments provided by City of Victoria residents to the CRD.

On the amendment: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

On the main motion as amended: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

### 4. ADJOURNMENT

Action:	It was moved by Councillor Madoff, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that the Special Governance & Priorities Committee meeting of March 23, 2015, he adjourned at 3,51 p.m.
	2015, be adjourned at 3:51 p.m.  CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC
Mayo	r Helps, Chair



### TOWN OF VIEW ROYAL

## CRD EXECUTIVE OFFICE Received

**Chair** 

**Z**CAO

Copies to.

☐ For action / resp. by.

☐ For Information Only

DGM.

45 View Royal Avenue, Victoria, BC, Canada V9B 1A6 Ph. 250-479-6800 • Fx. 250-727-9551 • E. info@viewroyal.ca • www.viewroyal.ca

□ Board

☐ Corresp. for Board / Committee meeting

500-20

**O**Communications

March 24, 2015

Capital Regional District Board 625 Fisgard Street Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Attention:

Nils Jensen, Chair

Dear Chair Jensen:

Re: October 2014 Draft Regional Sustainability Strategy

The October 2014 draft of the Regional Sustainability Strategy was provided to the Town of View Royal Committee of the Whole for review and discussion on March 10, 2015 and then forwarded to Council on March 17, 2015 for consideration.

After much discussion the following comments are offered with respect to the draft:

- Council has concern that the regional context statement language is too prescriptive and doesn't allow for a municipality to creatively respond to the RSS
- Council is opposed to removing water service extension restrictions (retain the existing RUSCSPA boundary and service restrictions)
- Emergency Management should focus on CRD assets rather than local government matters, and avoid duplication of services
- There is concern that the Rural Settlement Lands designation as conceived will further the fragmentation of rural lands
- There is support for the development of a business case analysis to better understand the rationale and costs associated with the proposed new service areas. And further that this approach should be considered as part of an ongoing review of existing service areas
- Philosophically there is support for a regional transportation authority and Council is interested in exploring proposed governance models
- We support the retention of agricultural lands that are suitable for agriculture within the ALR but note that there are existing processes to address this issue
- It was noted that many of the targets are lofty, and a review of the proposed targets to take a more pragmatic approach is suggested
- Council would prefer a Public Hearing in the Fall rather than in August to ensure the best opportunity for public engagement and input.

Council and staff look forward to more dialogue and consultation on the next version of the Regional Sustainability Strategy and recognize the importance of collaboration within the growth strategy process.



If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Lindsay Chase, Director of Development Services.

Yours truly, TOWN OF VIEW ROYAL

Elena Bolster

Deputy Municipal Clerk

cc: S. Bagh, Senior Manager, Planning and Protective Services