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**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021**

SUBJECT **Bylaw No. 4468, “Capital Regional District Climate Action and Adaptation Service Establishment Bylaw, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2021”**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The need to increase the maximum allowable requisition for the Capital Regional District (CRD) Climate Action and Adaptation Service.

BACKGROUND

The Climate Action Program (the Program) was developed through the Climate Action and Adaptation Service Establishment Bylaw, 2008 (Bylaw No. 3510). The CRD Climate Action Service facilitates regional coordination on climate action and provides direct support to municipalities, electoral areas and the CRD in achieving their objectives to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change impacts. Staff also provide technical data and scientific expertise, disseminate information and engage community stakeholders on climate related issues.

Since 2010, the Program has been able to leverage over \$2.7 million in external funding and grants for climate-related studies and programming in the capital region. The CRD also supports other partners in accessing grant funds to execute regional initiatives.

The Program’s budget is provided through an annual CRD tax requisition on behalf of all of the participants in the capital region. The bylaw’s maximum allowable requisition has reached its limit and cannot accommodate increased service levels associated with implementation of the CRD’s renewed Climate Action Strategy.

The proposed bylaw amends Bylaw No. 3510 to increase the maximum allowable requisition. Pursuant to Section 349 of the *Local Government Act (LGA)*, this bylaw amendment requires the consent of at least two-thirds of the participating area municipalities and electoral areas. Given that the increase is more than 25% over five years, the proposed bylaw also requires Inspector approval.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

1. That Bylaw No. 4468, “Capital Regional District Climate Action and Adaptation Service Establishment Bylaw, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2021”, be introduced and read a first, second, and third time;
2. That Bylaw No. 4468 be referred to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval;
3. That staff be directed to proceed with elector approval by way of Municipal Council and Electoral Area Director consent.

Alternative 2

That Bylaw No. 4468 be deferred pending further information from staff.

IMPLICATIONS

Service Delivery Implications

This increase of the Service’s budget would enable the Program to execute two new regional programs and increase corporate energy management activities, as outlined in the Climate Action and Adaptation Community Need. If approved, the activities would be included in the final 2022 Board service plan and budget, and begin in 2022. It is anticipated that staff will be able to leverage these funds to access grants and expand programming.

Financial Implications

The proposed bylaw amendment increases the maximum allowable requisition to the greater of \$1,737,635 or an amount that could be raised by a property value tax rate of \$0.0130/\$1,000 net taxable value of land and improvements within the service area. At a maximum, this allowable requisition would result in an increase of approximately \$7.61 per average household, based on an assessment of \$809,721 in 2021 rates. The actual impact per household depends upon the annual budget as approved by the CRD Board.

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

The bylaw amendment is directly associated with the implementation of CRD’s Climate Action Strategy, which was approved at the October 13, 2021 Board meeting and was developed in response to the CRD Board’s declaration of a Climate Emergency. If this amendment is not approved, staff will need to revise the stated commitments and timelines within the strategy.

Legislative Implications

Modifications to an establishing bylaw require two-thirds consent of participants. The most cost-effective method is consent on behalf by municipal councils and consent in writing by electoral area directors per ss. 346 and 347 of the *Local Government Act*.

CONCLUSION

A Board directive to respond to a declaration of a Climate Emergency led to the development of an updated Climate Action Strategy. The establishing bylaw has a maximum requisition limit that needs to be raised to implement key initiatives within the strategy. Pursuant to Section 349 of the *Local Government Act*, the bylaw amendment requires the consent of at least 2/3 of the participating area municipalities and electoral areas, as well as Inspector of Municipalities approval.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Bylaw No. 4468, “Capital Regional District Climate Action and Adaptation Service Establishment Bylaw, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2021”, be introduced and read a first, second, and third time;
2. That Bylaw No. 4468 be referred to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval;
3. That staff be directed to proceed with elector approval by way of Municipal Council and Electoral Area Director consent.

Submitted by:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Bylaw 4468, “Capital Regional District Climate Action and Adaptation Service Establishment Bylaw, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2021”