

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022**

SUBJECT **Bylaw No. 4491, “Capital Regional District Climate Action and Adaptation Service Establishment Bylaw, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 3, 2022”**

ISSUE SUMMARY

Withdrawal of the District of Central Saanich from 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 2008, this has been a fully regional service, funded through annual CRD tax requisition. Program dollars have also been supplemented by external grants to fund a range of regional initiatives.

In late 2021, the CRD initiated a consent municipal process associated with Bylaw No. 4468, “Capital Regional District Climate Action and Adaptation Service Establishment Bylaw, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2021”, seeking an allowance to increase the service’s requisition limit to accommodate increased service levels associated with implementation of the CRD’s renewed Climate Action Strategy. All local governments in the region provided consent, except for the District of Central Saanich, which requested to withdraw from the service entirely (see Appendix A). This would begin in 2023. The withdrawal triggers a bylaw amendment, budget adjustments and associated participant approval process.

The proposed bylaw (Appendix B) amends Bylaw No. 3510 to remove the District of Central Saanich from the CRD Climate Action and Adaptation Service. Pursuant to Section 349 of the *Local Government Act*, this bylaw amendment requires the consent of at least two-thirds of the participating area municipalities and electoral areas.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4491, “Capital Regional District Climate Action and Adaptation Service Establishment Bylaw, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 3, 2022”, be introduced and read a first, second, and third time;
2. That staff be directed to proceed with elector approval by way of Municipal Council and Electoral Area Director consent; and
3. That Bylaw No. 4491 be referred to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

Alternative 2

That Bylaw No. 4491 be deferred pending further information from staff.

IMPLICATIONS

Intergovernmental & Service Delivery Implications

With removal from the service, starting in 2023, Central Saanich staff and elected officials will no longer participate in the CRD Inter-Municipal Working Group or Task Force, nor participate in programs, policy initiatives or studies that the service often leads on behalf of municipalities and electoral areas. This includes regional greenhouse gas inventories, future iterations of sea level rise or other climate vulnerability mapping exercises, CRD coordinated policy efforts related to new developments and retrofits, the forthcoming regional energy retrofit program, additional programming to advance a public electric vehicle charging network, and having direct access to CRD staff content experts and participating in CRD-led capacity-building endeavors. Further, as Central Saanich will not be able to participate in regional scale grant applications for new or emergent opportunities, staff will need to make qualifications in applications clarifying their participation.

Financial Implications

In 2023, the District of Central Saanich's contribution to the CRD Climate Action and Adaptation Service is estimated to be approximately \$74,000. With removal from the service, the rest of the region's municipalities, electoral areas and participating First Nations will see an increase of their planned contribution to the service by 4.5% each.

Legislative Implications

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

CONCLUSION

The District of Central Saanich has requested to withdraw from the regional Climate Action and Adaptation Service starting in 2023, which triggers a bylaw amendment. Pursuant to Section 349 of the *Local Government Act*, a bylaw amendment requires the consent of at least two-thirds of the participating area municipalities and electoral areas, as well as Inspector of Municipalities approval.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4491, "Capital Regional District Climate Action and Adaptation Service Establishment Bylaw, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 3, 2022", be introduced and read a first, second, and third time;
2. That staff be directed to proceed with elector approval by way of Municipal Council and Electoral Area Director consent; and
3. That Bylaw No. 4491 be referred to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

Submitted by:	Nikki Elliott, Manager, Climate Action Programs
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, General Manager, Corporate Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: District of Central Saanich Letter (December 8, 2021)
- Appendix B: Bylaw No. 4491, “Capital Regional District Climate Action and Adaptation Service Establishment Bylaw, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 3, 2022”