

Draft OCP Regional Context Statement



Purpose

- Present Council with an updated OCP regional context statement.
- Seek direction to prepare an OCP amendment bylaw and undertake consultation on updated regional context statement prior to reporting back to Council.



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Background

- New Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) was approved by the CRD Board on March 14, 2018.
- RGS provides policy guidance and targets for coordinated growth and development within the region to 2038.
- Section 466 of the Local Government Act requires local governments to include within their Official Community Plans a regional context statement that identifies how the OCP is consistent with the RGS.
- Current regional context statement was developed in 2012 to align with previous (2003) RGS.



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OCP and RGS Policy Alignment

The OCP continues to maintain alignment with the 2018 RGS through policies and strategic directions that:

- focus growth and compact development within strategic areas;
- encourage environmental sustainability;
- result in complete communities with improved housing choices;
- support a multi-modal transportation system for walking, cycling and transit;
- diversify and strengthen the local and regional economies;
- support the planning and integration of comprehensive food systems at various scales; and
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption.



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OCP Amendment

- OCP amendment bylaw is required to amend OCP with updated regional context statement.
- Proposed consultation with Capital Regional District, District of Oak Bay, District of Saanich, Township of Esquimalt, Songhees First Nation, Esquimalt First Nation, and School District 61.
- Interested members of the public will be able to view draft regional context statement through City website.
- Staff will report back to Council with summary of feedback and proposed OCP amendment bylaw prior to first reading.
- Additional opportunity for feedback through public hearing.
- Once Council has approved the OCP amendment bylaw, staff will refer the approved bylaw and regional context statement to CRD Board for acceptance.



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Recommendation

That Council:

1. Direct staff to prepare an Official Community Plan amendment bylaw to replace section 5 of Schedule "A" with an updated regional context statement that summarizes the policy alignment between the OCP and the 2018 CRD Regional Growth Strategy.
2. Consider consultation under Section 475(1) of the Local Government Act and direct staff to post a notice on the City's website of the draft regional context statement, and such notice will provide the contact information of a Planning staff member to which members of the public may speak and provide input, and the staff member will provide a report on input received to Council prior to first reading.
3. Consider consultation under Section 475(2)(b) of the Local Government Act and direct staff to refer the draft regional context statement for comments to the Capital Regional District Board, District of Oak Bay, District of Saanich, Township of Esquimalt, Songhees First Nation, Esquimalt First Nation, and School District 61.



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Recommendation

4. Direct staff to report back to Council with a summary of feedback, the updated regional context statement, and the Official Community Plan amendment bylaw for first reading.

