



Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of April 16, 2020

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** April 2, 2020
From: Karen Hoes, Director, Sustainable Planning and Community Development
Subject: Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Referral for Municipal Acceptance

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Accept the Regional Growth Strategy amendment, as set out in the Capital Regional District's Bylaw No. 4328 "Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 1, 2019" (Bylaw No. 4328) as per section 436 of the *Local Government Act*.
2. Direct staff to provide the Capital Regional District Board with a letter confirming the City of Victoria's acceptance of the Capital Regional District Bylaw No. 4328.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has referred Bylaw No. 4328 (Attachment A) to the City of Victoria for municipal acceptance via a letter from the CRD Board addressed to Mayor and Council (Attachment B). This bylaw will update the population, dwelling unit and employment projections in Table 1 of the *Regional Growth Strategy* (RGS). The CRD is updating the projections in the RGS based on the 2016 census information prepared by BC Stats, and input from municipalities, the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee, and other stakeholders. The CRD's practice of updating the RGS as new information becomes available helps to support the City of Victoria's adaptive management approach to monitoring and updating our own policies and bylaws such as the *Official Community Plan* (OCP).

Local government acceptance of proposed Regional Growth Strategies (including amendments thereof) is required by the *Local Government Act* before it can be adopted by the CRD Board. If Council rejects the Bylaw No. 4328, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing must direct the process to settle the dispute. The City of Victoria must provide a letter indicating acceptance or refusal of Bylaw No. 4328 by May 12, 2020.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Capital Regional District's Bylaw No. 4328 "Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 1, 2019" (Bylaw No. 4328) for Council to consider accepting as per section 436 of the *Local Government Act*.

BACKGROUND

As per section 436, part (4) (a) of the *Local Government Act* (see Attachment C), each local government must review a proposed regional growth strategy (amendment) in the context of any official community plans and other matters that affect its jurisdiction.

Part (4) (b) indicates that local governments have 60 days to either accept or refuse to accept a regional growth strategy, unless the period is extended by a facilitator (under section 438 [3]). In this case, the City of Victoria must provide the CRD Board with a letter confirming either acceptance or refusal to accept Bylaw No. 4328 by May 12, 2020 (i.e. within 60 days of the March 13, 2020 referral date). If a local government does not respond within this timeframe, it is deemed to have accepted the regional growth strategy.

ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

The CRD's practice of updating the RGS as new information becomes available helps to support the City of Victoria's adaptive management approach to monitoring and updating our own policies and bylaws such as the OCP.

Table 1 of the RGS contains population, dwelling unit, and employment projections for the CRD. The current (not yet amended) RGS provides each of these projections by municipality, sub-region (i.e. Core, Saanich Peninsula, and West Shore), and regional totals. If adopted, Bylaw No. 4328 would replace these projections with a new Table 1 providing updated projections at the sub-region and regional levels. Despite the absence of municipality-specific projections in the new Table 1 proposed under Bylaw No. 4328, the Capital Regional District 2019-2038 Population, Dwelling Units and Employment Projection Report provided to the CRD Board by BC Stats (Attachment D) does include municipality-specific projections. These more detailed projections continue to support Victoria's adaptive management of our OCP and related policy documents.

OPTIONS AND IMPACTS

2019 - 2022 Strategic Plan

Although the RGS amendment does not directly relate to specific actions identified within the *Strategic Plan*, the CRD's practice of keeping the RGS up to date aligns with the *Strategic Plan*'s broad objective of "Good Governance and Civic Engagement" and supports other actions in the Strategy Plan related to housing and local area planning by providing updated population projections.

Impacts to Financial Plan

If Council refuses to accept the CRD's proposed Bylaw No. 4329, there may be impacts to the *Financial Plan* associated with the non-binding resolution process that would result. The *Local Government Act*, section 439 (6) outlines the division of fees and costs associated with this scenario as follows:

- (6) *Unless otherwise agreed by these parties, the fees of any neutral person participating in the non-binding resolution process and the administrative costs of the process, other than the costs incurred by the parties participating in the process, are to be shared proportionally between the proposing board and the affected local governments that participate in the process on the basis of the converted value of land and improvements in their jurisdictions.*

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Accessibility Impact Statement

There are no accessibility considerations to highlight with this proposed amendment to the RGS.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

The City's OCP continues to be aligned with the RGS as per the OCP's recently updated regional context statement, which has been accepted by the CRD. As directed by Council, following staff's report regarding the 2019 OCP Annual Review, the City is currently undertaking a residential capacity assessment of the City's OCP in order to determine whether future adjustments to the OCP are necessary to accommodate future population growth.

CONCLUSION

The RGS amendment Bylaw No. 4328 helps to keep the RGS up to date, thereby supporting the City of Victoria's adaptive management of our OCP and related policies. As such, staff recommend Council accept Bylaw No. 4328 to support timely updating of the CRD's RGS.

Respectfully submitted,




Malcolm MacLean
Community Planner
Community Planning Division



Karen Hoese
Director
Sustainable Planning and Community
Development Department

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:


Date: April 9, 2020

List of Attachments:

- Attachment A: CRD Bylaw No. 4328 "Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1, 2016, Amendment Bylaw, No. 1, 2019"
- Attachment B: Letter referring the RGS Amendment Bylaw No. 4328 for Municipal Acceptance
- Attachment C: *Local Government Act* provisions for acceptance and settlement of a Regional Growth Strategy
- Attachment D: Capital Regional District 2019-2038 Population, Dwelling Units and Employment Projection Report.

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

BYLAW NO. 4328

A BYLAW TO AMEND BYLAW NO. 4017 "CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY BYLAW NO. 1, 2018"

The Capital Regional District Board, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Bylaw No. 4017, being the "Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy, Bylaw No. 1, 2016", is hereby amended as follows:

A. SCHEDULE A

- (a) By deleting TABLE 1: POPULATION, DWELLING UNIT AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS and replacing with a new TABLE 1: POPULATION, DWELLING UNIT AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECTION as follows:

TABLE 1: POPULATION, DWELLING UNIT AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

	2018			2038			Population Change	
	Population	Dwellings	Employment	Population	Dwellings	Employment	Total	Percentage
Core	266,000	120,100	166,800	304,500	140,400	197,000	38,500	14.5%
Saanich Peninsula	43,000	18,400	21,900	48,600	23,200	29,200	5,600	13.0%
West Shore	83,100	33,000	22,400	125,400	55,000	34,900	42,300	50.9%
Total	392,100	171,600	211,100	478,500	218,500	261,100	86,400	22.0%

Source: BC Stats, 2019

All figures are as of July 1st of the year stated.

First Nations populations are not included in Table 1, as First Nations Reserves are outside the GMPA.

All values are rounded independently. As a result, when sub-regional values are summed the values may not match the GMPA which are independently rounded to avoid cumulative rounding error.

Employment does not include those without a fixed workplace address.

Core includes Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria and View Royal.

Saanich Peninsula includes Central Saanich, North Saanich and Sidney.

West Shore includes Colwood, Highlands, Juan De Fuca EA, Langford, Metochosin and Sooke.

2. This bylaw may be cited as, 4328 "Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1, 2016, Amendment Bylaw No. 1, 2019".