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August 6, 2019

Fraser Valley Regional District
45950 Cheam Avenue
Chilliwack, BC, V2P 1N6
By email: jkinneman@fvrd.ca

Dear Chair and Board:

**RE: Acceptance by affected local governments – 60-day Referral –
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Review
(RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018)**

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) initiated a major amendment of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008 to address specific housekeeping amendments, clarify implementation processes (including updates to the Minor Amendment Criteria), address specific content gaps (namely food/agriculture and climate change) and amend mapping. Initiation of the amendment followed consideration of a review, as per the *Local Government Act (LGA)* section 452(2) five year review requirements. It should be noted that any updates to a minor amendment criteria trigger a major amendment process, as per the *LGA*.

“Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 1562-2018” (RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018), was given second reading, as amended at the July 25, 2019 SLRD Board meeting. Before third reading the SLRD Board must submit the regional growth strategy to affected local governments for acceptance.

BACKGROUND:

Purpose of the RGS Review:

Meet LGA Requirements

The LGA requires a regular review of regional growth strategies, with a review to be considered at least once every five years.

Improve implementation

Through implementation of the RGS Bylaw (over the past 8 years - RGS has been in place since June 2010), SLRD staff and the RGS Steering Committee have identified some issues with the RGS, including the Minor Amendment Criteria and Process. Amendments are proposed to add clarity and support decision-making.

Evolve Policy and Processes

The SLRD has experienced considerable change since the RGS was initiated in 2003. There have also been changes at the provincial and federal level that have impacted regional district planning. As well, member municipalities, through the RGS Steering Committee, identified a number of areas requiring updates. The RGS Review has provided the opportunity to evolve policy and processes to reflect the current and future context.

Continue Collaboration:

The RGS Review process – guided by the RGS Steering Committee with direction provided through three elected officials' forums and input provided by the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee – has continued the collaborative efforts as noted in the RGS Bylaw by continuing to assist all parties with an interest in the region to:

1. Work together to address matters of common regional concern;
2. Demonstrate respect for each other's jurisdictions and processes;
3. Maintain good communications and coordination with respect to land use and other decisions of a regional and sub-regional nature;
4. Create a long term vision informed by the key principles of sustainability and embark on a path to our future in a manner that finds a responsible balance between the environmental, economic, and social needs of our communities.

Content

The RGS Review is intended to be an update not an overhaul of the current RGS. Some content revisions and additions are proposed (i.e. the development of a Food Systems Goal and Climate Change Goal, preferred modes of transportation policy and priorities, and expanded affordable housing policies), but the focus is really toward implementation of the RGS and developing criteria and processes to support collective agreement and responsibility. The RGS Review was initiated as a major amendment, as revisions to the minor amendment criteria are proposed. The RGS Review also provides

an opportunity to address various housekeeping amendments (i.e. updating population, employment and dwelling unit projects; updating monitoring indicators; and updating terminology and references, etc.) reflecting the “living” nature of strategies, and to improve the function and relevance of the document.

Some mapping updates are also proposed, reflecting member municipality OCP updates (comprehensive community processes, not stand-alone amendments) and housekeeping amendments.

Please find enclosed RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018 (RGS Review). Additionally, a Timeline of Events and Consultation Schedule are enclosed for information.

ACCEPTANCE BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

As per section 436 of the *LGA*, “*Before it is adopted, a regional growth strategy must be accepted by the affected local governments or, failing acceptance, become binding on the affected local governments under section 440 (6) [settlement of regional growth strategy in acceptance not otherwise reached]*”. The subject referral seeks affected local government acceptance of RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018 (SLRD RGS Review) by resolution. Accordingly, each local government must:

- (a) review the regional growth strategy in the context of any official community plans and regional growth strategies for its jurisdiction, both those that are current and those that are in preparation, and in the context of any other matters that affect its jurisdiction, and*
- (b) subject to an extension by the facilitator, within 60 days of receipt either*
 - (i) accept the regional growth strategy, or*
 - (ii) respond, by resolution, to the proposing board indicating that the local government refuses to accept the regional growth strategy.*

Note, if an affected local government fails to act within the period for acceptance or refusal, the local government is deemed to have accepted the regional growth strategy.

As required by section 436 of the *LGA*, please indicate by local government resolution either acceptance or refusal of RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018 by October 6, 2019. Note a failure to accept will result in a non-binding resolution or arbitration process.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kim Needham, Director of Planning and Development Services at kneedham@slrd.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Rainbow", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Tony Rainbow,
Board Chair
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

cc: Lynda Flynn, CAO, SLRD
Kim Needham, Director of Planning and Development Services, SLRD

enclosures: Timeline of Events:
https://www.slrld.bc.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/planning/Regional-Growth-Strategy/TIMELINE%20OF%20EVENTS%20TO%20DATE_updatedAug2019.pdf

Consultation Schedule:
https://www.slrld.bc.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/planning/Regional-Growth-Strategy/RGSReviewConsultationSchedule2016_FINAL_Aug2019_1.pdf

RGS Review Project Page (for full project details including staff reports and RGS Amendment Bylaw 1562-2018 and mapping):
<https://www.slrld.bc.ca/inside-slrld/current-projects-initiatives/regional-growth-strategy-rgs-review>