

To: CAO for the Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2019-10-29

From: Pam Loat, Legislative Coordinator

File No: 3920-20

**Subject: Electoral Area B Economic Development Service Area Establishment Bylaw No. 1550, 2019**

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## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board consider giving three readings to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Area B Economic Development Service Area Establishment Bylaw No. 1550, 2019*

## STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

## BACKGROUND

Under the *Local Government Act*, Regional Districts may operate any service that the Board considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the Regional District. In this case, the Director for Electoral Area B has requested that an economic development service area be established.

Economic development activities can increase local economic resilience, create jobs and improve quality of life for residents. To ensure fairness, local governments cannot directly provide assistance to an industrial, commercial or business undertaking pursuant to Section 273 of the *Local Government Act*.

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of the draft bylaw is to create an economic development service area within Electoral Area B. The establishment of this service area will fund the promotion of such activities including tourism projects and infrastructure, community events and community revitalization.

Upon receipt of 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, the draft bylaw requires Electoral Area Director Consent before it will be sent to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval. Once the service area bylaw has received approval by the Inspector, it will return to the Board for adoption.

Please note that a service area to fund the promotion of economic development activities can be established by way of Electoral Area Director consent under Section 347(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act* if the participating area includes all of an electoral area and the service can be established without borrowing.

## **COST**

There are no costs associated with establishing this service. The budget for the service will be determined through the financial planning process and direction received from the Area B Director.

## **COMMENTS BY:**

**Jaime Reilly, Acting Director of Corporate Affairs**

Reviewed and supported.

**Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services**

Reviewed and supported.

**Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer**

Reviewed and supported.