

To: Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2024-04-11

From: Sam Sidal, Bylaw Compliance & Enforcement Officer

File No:

Subject: Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Areas F and G Fireworks Regulation Bylaw No. 1739, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board give three readings and adoption to the bylaw cited as the Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Areas F and G Fireworks Regulation Bylaw No. 1739, 2024.

BACKGROUND

The FVRD Board directed staff to develop a new bylaw to prohibit the sale of fireworks in FVRD Electoral Areas F and G and prepare a corresponding amendment to FVRD Bylaw Offence Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 1415.

DISCUSSION

Bylaw 1739

FVRD Bylaw No. 1739, 2024 would prohibit the sale of fireworks in Electoral Areas F and G. It would not apply to First Nation reserve lands within these electoral areas.

The adoption of FVRD Bylaw 1739, 2024 would also repeal Dewdney-Alouette Regional District Fireworks Bylaw No. 115-1976 and any amendments thereto. This bylaw is outdated and redundant.

Communications

Leading into the 'fireworks **season**' the prohibition or regulation of the sale of fireworks would be communicated to Area Directors, residents, RCMP detachment offices and fire departments in Electoral Areas F and G.

Without additional funding for supplementary communications, such as custom portable signs placed along the roadside in key locations of Electoral Areas F and G, this information would only be **distributed through the FVRD's usual communication channels**, such as the FVRD website, social media and the FVRD sign located in Deroche.

In addition, this would be communicated to Councils on First Nation lands; the FVRD bylaw would not apply to the sale of fireworks on First Nation land.

Offence and Penalty

An amendment to the *Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw Offence Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 1415, 2017* would be necessary to enable ticketing for bylaw offences related to the sale of fireworks in Electoral Areas F and G.

Upon adoption, this amendment would be included in the *Fraser Valley Regional District Bylaw Offence Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw No. 1724, 2024* and presented for first reading at the Electoral Area Services Committee Meeting scheduled for May 9, 2024.

BC Fireworks Act

In addition to developing a bylaw to regulate the sales of fireworks in Electoral Areas F and G, the Board directed staff to take the necessary steps to request that the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General add FVRD Electoral Areas F and G to the list of rural areas designated by regulation to be covered by the Fireworks Act.

Although the successful addition to this list of rural areas does not grant FVRD Bylaw Enforcement staff with greater authority to enforce regulations, it would give the RCMP authority to enforce Section 3 of the Act pertaining to the prohibited sale and discharge of fireworks outside of the period from October 24 to November 1 of each year.

Staff will report back to the Committee and Board when a response is received from the Province.

CONCLUSION

The adoption of FVRD Bylaw 1739, 2024 would prohibit the sale of fireworks in Electoral Areas F and G (excluding IR lands).

COMMENTS BY:

Bill Ozeroff, Manager of Inspection Services: reviewed and supported

Graham Daneluz, Director of Planning & Development: reviewed and supported

Kelly Lownsbrough, Director of Corporate Services/CFO: Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.