TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Jamai Schile
Senior Planner
FILE: 6780

SUBJECT: Regional Context Statements – Request for Continued Acceptance

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Board accept the City of Nanaimo’s request for continued acceptance of their Regional Context Statement as submitted to the Regional District of Nanaimo on May 9, 2019.

2. That the Board accept the City of Parksville’s request for continued acceptance of their Regional Context Statement as submitted to the Regional District of Nanaimo on December 6, 2019.

SUMMARY

The provincial legislation requires that member municipalities’ Official Community Plans (OCP) retain a Regional Context Statement (RCS) that aligns the community’s aspirations with the regional vision and goals established in the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). To ensure that these linking documents remain consistent, the municipalities and RDN Board are required to review the RCSs at least every five years.

For 2019, the City of Nanaimo and the City of Parksville Regional Context Statements are scheduled for review by the RDN Board. As both municipalities have demonstrated how their communities’ plans and policies align with the RGS, it is recommended their requests for continued acceptance of their RCSs be granted.

BACKGROUND

Section 446 of the Local Government Act requires that each municipality submit an RCS that identifies the relationship between the municipality’s Official Community Plan (OCP) and the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). Municipalities are responsible for adopting RCSs that specify how the municipality’s OCP addresses the applicable RGS policies. RCSs are expected to be generally consistent with the vision and sustainability principles, goals and applicable policies and parcel-based regional land use designations in the RGS.

Section 448 (1)(c) of the Local Government Act requires municipalities to review their RCS at least once every five years following acceptance by the applicable Regional District Board and, if no amendment is proposed, to submit the RCS to the Board requesting its continued acceptance. The five-year review provides an opportunity for the member jurisdiction to consider if any changes have occurred to its OCP that would trigger an amendment to the RCS.

1 Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No.1615, 2011
Of the four member municipalities in the region, the City of Nanaimo and the City of Parksville are scheduled for a five-year review. The Town of Qualicum Beach RCS was recently accepted through their September 2019 OCP update. The District of Lantzville adopted their OCP bylaw in June 2019 and plans to submit their amended RCS in early 2020. Table 1 provides a summary of the RCS acceptance and status for each municipality.

### Table 1: Summary of Regional Context Statements Acceptance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Last Year of acceptance</th>
<th>5-year review due</th>
<th>Regional Context Statement (RCS) Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Nanaimo</td>
<td>Oct 22, 2013</td>
<td>Oct 22, 2018</td>
<td>OCP review scheduled for 2020; RCS update to follow OCP amendment adoption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Parksville</td>
<td>Jun 25, 2013</td>
<td>Jun 25, 2018</td>
<td>RCS updated 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Qualicum Beach</td>
<td>Sep 18, 2018</td>
<td>Sep 18, 2023</td>
<td>RCS updated 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Regional Context Statement and RGS Alignment

**City of Nanaimo**

The City of Nanaimo’s RCS indicates a future change to the City’s OCP that states:

> The City will be conducting a targeted review of the OCP during the fall of 2013 and spring of 2014. As part of that review Map 1 - Future Land Use to indicate that the City’s municipal boundary and the RGS Growth Containment Boundary are contiguous.

On February 5, 2015, the City amended Map 1 of the OCP to implement this change. The text in the RCS, however, was not updated to recognize the mapping change, which has resulted in an inconsistency within the City’s OCP. This is considered a required minor or housekeeping update and the remainder of the RCS is considered to align with the goals set out in the RGS.

The housekeeping update would require the City to amend their OCP for which the City has indicated will be part of their current comprehensive OCP review. As the housekeeping amendment does not have any land use implications, it is recommended to continue to accept the City of Nanaimo’s RCS. See Attachment 1 – City of Nanaimo’s Letter of Request.

**City of Parksville**

The City of Parksville recognizes that while several amendments to their OCP have proceeded since adoption in 2013, these changes have furthered the objectives of the RGS or have had no implication with respect to the RGS. According to the City, the amendments have generally worked towards supporting RGS policies for housing affordability and higher density within the City’s boundary. Since the City’s RCS remains relevant and is considered consistent with the RGS, it is recommended to continue to accept the City of Parksville’s RCS. See Attachment 2 – City of Parksville’s Letter of Request.
ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Board continue to accept the Regional Context Statements for the City of Nanaimo and the City of Parksville.

2. That the Board provide other direction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this decision.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Growth Management - Provide effective regional land use planning and responsible asset management for both physical infrastructure and natural assets.

The RGS sets out the region’s agreed upon approach to effective regional planning, and when a Regional Context Statement is determined to be consistent with the RGS, it is also found to align with the Board’s Strategic priority on growth management.

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December 12, 2019

Reviewed by:
- K. Fowler, Manager, Long Range Planning, Energy and Sustainability
- G. Garbutt, General Manager, Strategic and Community Development
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:
1. City of Nanaimo Letter of Request
2. City of Parksville Letter of Request