

**ATTACHMENT 3
CURRENT OCP SECTION 8.8 NANAIMO AIRPORT**

8.8 Nanaimo Airport

The Nanaimo Airport is located on approximately 211.0 ha of land situated in the south west corner of Electoral Area 'A'. It is a regional facility, owned and operated by the Nanaimo Airport Commission (NAC) with a primary catchment area extending from approximately Qualicum Bay in Electoral Area 'H' to the north and the City of Duncan to the south.



Recent and ongoing upgrades including a runway extension, installation of navigational equipment, and a major terminal upgrade are expected to improve airport reliability and create opportunities for increased passenger service.

The airport lands are located above the Cassidy Aquifer which is known to be highly vulnerable to surface contamination. Aquifer protection is of utmost importance to plan area residents. Therefore the community wishes to ensure that all activities on airport lands are conducted in a manner which minimizes the risk of groundwater contamination.

In response to these concerns, the RDN shall strongly encourage the NAC, when proposing activities on airport lands which have the potential to impact the Cassidy Aquifer, to take proactive aquifer protection measures such as the preparation of a hydrogeological assessment and conducting work under the supervision of a Hydrogeologist or qualified engineer to ensure that the aquifer is protected against the impacts of development.

Throughout the OCP review process there were numerous discussions regarding how this plan should address the Nanaimo Airport Lands. This plan recognizes there are unresolved issues surrounding the Nanaimo Airport that are of regional significance which go beyond the scope of this plan and require input from stakeholders representing a cross section of regional views.

This plan supports the establishment of a process to identify and respond to the community's concerns with respect to the Nanaimo Airport. This process must include opportunities for the public and other stakeholders to provide input. It is recognized that this plan may be amended at a later date in response to the outcome of that process. Should an amendment to the OCP be considered in response to that process, the Electoral Area 'A' OCP Committee should be consulted and have an opportunity to provide input.

The RDN has no jurisdiction over aeronautic and aeronautic-related uses and uses which are considered vital components of airport operations. The RDN has jurisdiction over uses which are not related to and are not vital to the operation of an airport. While the determination of these matters is ultimately one that would be made either by reaching an agreement with the Nanaimo Airport Commission through the community planning process supported by this plan, or failing that, by the courts, generally speaking the RDN would expect to be able to control those uses which do not contribute to the functioning of the airport as a facility for air transportation.”

