

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT



**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** February 22, 2024

**RE:** Referral - Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023

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### Administrative Recommendation:

**THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District be advised that the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen accepts the *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023*, as drafted.**

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### Purpose:

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) is requesting that the Regional District formally accept the *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023*, as required under Section 436 of the *Local Government Act*.

### Background:

Under Section 436 of the *Local Government Act* (the Act), a regional growth strategy must be accepted by affected local governments (including member municipalities and adjacent regional districts) via council or board resolution.

As per Section 436(4) of the Act, each affected local government must review the regional growth strategy in the context of any official community plans and regional growth strategies (current and in preparation) for its jurisdiction, and in the context of any other matters that affect its jurisdiction, and within 60 days of receipt, resolve to accept or refuse to accept the regional growth strategy.

If an affected local government resolves to refuse to accept the regional growth strategy, it must indicate each provision to which it objects, the reasons for its objection, and whether it is willing that a provision to which it objects be included in the regional growth strategy on the basis that the provisions will not apply to its jurisdiction as per Section 432(2).

On January 26, 2024, the Regional District received a letter from the Fraser Valley Regional District requesting acceptance of the *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023*.

### Analysis:

The FVRD's administrative southeasterly boundary – specifically that of their Electoral Area “B” (Yale, Dogwood Valley, Choate, Emory Creek, Sunshine Valley, Laidlaw) – abuts the western boundary of the RDOS's Electoral Area “H”.

The draft Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) speaks to the establishment of a Regional Growth Boundary (RGB), which is described as a “tool for delineating areas with urban centres for future growth”. Higher residential densities are understood to be encouraged within the RGB where appropriate

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services exist. It is understood that the “Urban Centres” comprise of the various municipalities; each of which contains a delineated RGB.

Rural communities (i.e., distinct communities within electoral areas) are also delineated in the draft RGS, and are expected to have minimal growth over the next 30 years. See Attachment No. 1 for a map of the urban centres and rural communities designated under the draft RGS.

While the RDOS is currently undertaking its own RGS review, it sub-regional in nature applying solely to the Okanagan Valley Electoral Areas “A”, “C”, “D”, “E”, “F”, and “I”, and member municipalities (Town of Oliver, Town of Osoyoos, City of Penticton, and District of Summerland).

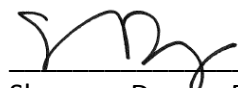
Further, while Electoral Area “H” (which shares a boundary with the FVRD) does have an Official Community Plan bylaw, the draft RGS is not seen to impact the RDOS’s interests, particularly given that growth is generally directed to lands within the RGBs, which are located municipal boundaries.

As such, Administration recommends that the Board “accept” the *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023*.

**Alternatives:**

1. THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District be advised that the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen refuses the *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1706, 2023* as drafted, as it relates to the following provisions, and for the following reasons:
  - a. *TBD*

**Respectfully submitted:**



Shannon Duong, Planner II

**Endorsed By:**



C. Garrish, Senior Manager of Planning

Attachments: No. 1 – Map 3 of Draft Fraser Valley Regional District RGS Bylaw

No. 2 – FVRD Request to RDOS to Accept RGS Bylaw

No. 3 – Draft Fraser Valley Future 2050 Regional Growth Strategy

## Map 3. Urban Centres and Rural Communities



*This map does not represent RGS landuse designations, rather it describes the diversity of communities in this region, large and small.*