

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT



**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** B. Newell, Chief Administrative Officer  
**DATE:** July 21, 2022  
**RE:** Noise Control Bylaw No. 2931, 2022

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### **Administrative Recommendation:**

**THAT Bylaw No. 2931, 2022, a bylaw of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen to establish Noise Control regulations in Electoral Areas “C”, “D”, “E”, “F”, “H” & “I, be read a first, second and third time; and**

**THAT Bylaw No. 2507.14, 2022, a bylaw to amend the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw, be read a first, second and third time.**

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### **Purpose:**

This bylaw would replace the existing and separate noise control bylaws that are currently in place for these same electoral areas.

### **Background:**

Under Section 324 of the *Local Government Act*, the Board may, by bylaw, “regulate or prohibit the making or causing of noises or sounds in or on a highway or elsewhere in the regional district.”

At present, the Regional District has adopted Noise Control Bylaws for Electoral Areas “C”, “D”, “E”, “F”, “H” & “I” and, at the November 2021 Strategic Planning session, identified the review of these noise control bylaws as a corporate priority for 2022.

At its meeting of July 22, 2021, the Planning and Development (P&D) Committee considered an Administrative Report related to Bylaw No. 2931 and resolved that the bylaw be referred to the Electoral Area Advisory Planning Commissions (APCs) for comment.

At its meeting of December 16, 2021, the P&D Committee considered the recommendations from the Electoral Area APCs as well as some additional information related to construction hours, delegation of noise exemptions and fees.

The Committee subsequently resolved that Bylaw No. 2931 be updated to reflect revised construction hours and that options related to the measurement of decibels be brought forward for consideration.

At its meeting of June 16, 2022, the P&D Committee resolved that “Bylaw No. 2931, 2022, a bylaw of the Regional District to incorporate the use of decimetres as a measurement criteria in a Noise Control Bylaw, be initiated.”

### **Analysis:**

The consolidation of the current existing noise control bylaws is seen to be a positive step that will allow for a more efficient administration of the regulations governing noise.

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In addition, and further to the direction previously provided by the Board, the transition to an “objective” based bylaw that relies on the use of decibels (e.g. dBA) is anticipated to provide a more reliable and practical approach to enforcement.

A noise control bylaw based on decibels requires, amongst other things, the establishment of zones or districts based on use (e.g. commercial, industrial, residential and other), the definition of “day time” and “night time”, the establishment of maximum decibel levels, a differentiation between these based on zone/district and the establishment criteria for how sound measurements are to be taken.

In response, Bylaw No. 2931, is proposing that “daytime” be defined as 7am to 10pm Monday to Saturday and 10am to 10pm on a Sunday or Holiday, that a “quiet district” is anything other than a commercial or industrial zone (in a zoning bylaw) and that the maximum allowable decibel levels be as follows:

NOISE SOURCE	NOISE RECEIVER			
	Quiet District		Activity District	
	Daytime	Nighttime	Daytime	Nighttime
Quiet District	55 dBA	45 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA
Activity District	60 dBA	55 dBA	70 dBA	70 dBA

With regard to construction noise, it is proposed that this noise source be allowed to exceed stated decibel levels only between the hours of 7am and 8pm Monday to Saturday and 10am to 5pm on Sundays and Holidays (except in Electoral Area “E”, where the hours are 11am to 4pm on Sundays and Holidays).

Finally, it is being proposed that the issuance of a short-term exemption from the requirements of the permit be delegated to Administration, that assessment of such requests take into consideration specified criteria (e.g. safety & seasonal considerations, length of request and proposed mitigation measures) and that a delegated decision be appealable to the Board.

The proposed amendments to the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 2507, 2010, are intended to ensure administrative consistency of this bylaw with Bylaw No. 2931 (e.g. by introducing updated bylaw and section references).

**Alternative:**

1. THAT the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Noise Regulation Bylaw No. 2931, 2022, and Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw No. 2507.14, 2022, not be read a first time.

**Respectfully submitted:**

  
 C. Garrish, Planning Manager

  
 M. Petry, Building & Bylaw Enforcement Manager