

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT



**TO:** Planning & Development Committee

**FROM:** B. Newell, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** September 7, 2023

**RE:** Electoral Area “E” Official Community Plan - Final Engagement Survey Results  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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### **Purpose:**

To provide the results of the final community engagement that was conducted by the Regional District between July 10<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to seek feedback on the strategic direction of the draft Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw No. 3010.

### **Background:**

The review and update of the Electoral Area “E” Official Community Plan (OCP) was identified as a 2020 Business Plan priority and work began in 2021. A draft of the OCP has been completed and made available for public review. As well, a short survey was developed to ask questions on several strategic policy directions.

### **Public Survey:**

There are always a number of inherent ‘biases’ when conducting a survey to obtain public feedback. For example, the survey is not statistically valid, but it is representative of those who self select themselves to answer. Participants are anonymous and people do not need to register their contact information. Duplicate responses are possible, although there are ways to assess if multiple responses seem apparent or if there appears to be collaborative and identical responses.

The survey responses are to be viewed as information only, a snapshot of opinions from those who chose to participate.

The Regional District’s Regional Connection is an interactive community engagement website and is where the final survey was made available for the public. The survey was advertised through social media, Voyent Alert!, the Naramata market, and ads placed in My Naramata and Castanet. The majority of responses were done on-line; however, 17 paper copies were submitted.

The Survey was open from July 10<sup>th</sup> to August 8, 2023. 373 responses were received.

### **Analysis:**

The complete analysis of the survey is included as Attachment No. 1. Below is a summary of the responses received.

- 85 % were full time residents, 11% were part time residents, and 4% did not live in Electoral Area “E”;
- 89% of respondents were either ‘very happy’ or ‘happy’ with the proposed vision statement;

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- 59% of respondents noted they ‘definitely agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ with the draft Growth Containment Area “A”;
  - 47% of respondents noted that they ‘definitely agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ with the draft Growth Containment Area “B”; with 46% of the respondents noting either ‘definitely disagree or ‘somewhat disagree’ with the containment are as drafted;
  - 35% of respondents noted that they ‘definitely agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ with the draft Growth Containment Area “C”; whereas, 53% ‘definitely disagree or ‘somewhat disagree’ with the containment area as drafted;
  - 58% of respondents either ‘definitely agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ on having specific policies for ‘lower Naramata’.
  - 72% of respondents either ‘definitely agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ on having specific policies for ‘upper Naramata’;
  - The ranked future Board project from the four proposed for implementation were as follows:
    - 1) explore regulatory options for future hillside developments’.
    - 2) support a housing need and demand study to be conducted to assess affordable housing options,
    - 3) support Area “E” to become a designated international Dark Sky Community
    - 4) support exploring the option of lowering single family residential development height requirements in the lower Naramata area.
  - The three top ranked advocacy items for the RDOS to pursue were:
    - 1) advocate for the Province to review short-term rentals (vacation rentals) including new compliance and enforcement
    - 2) advocate for the Province to extend speculations and vacancy tax to the RDOS,
    - 3) support the sale/donation of parcels along the creeks to protect riparian areas.
  - The three top ranked secondary priorities for the RDOS to advocate for were:
    - 1) encourage MOTI to review traffic movements and safety,
    - 2) support the sale/donation of parcels along the creeks to protect riparian areas,
    - 3) support a review of RDOS bylaw enforcement services.
  - The final question was open-ended and allowed for comments concerning the draft OCP. There were 206 written responses to this question. The general themes can be categorized as:
    - Growth boundaries- against and in favour
    - Densification- in favour and against growth in general
    - Strong opposition to further hillside development
    - Proposed community sewer system-most against but some support
    - Vacation rentals- enforcement and update, some support for economic reasons
    - Sidewalks – for and against

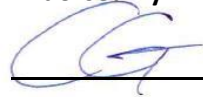
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- Clearcutting of trees (relates to hillside developments)
  - Transportation concerns

**Respectfully submitted:**

Evelyn Riechert

E. Riechert, Planner II

**Endorsed By:**



C. Garrish, Senior Manager of Planning

Attachments: No. 1 – Community Engagement Survey Summary of Results