

City of Nanaimo Regional Context Statement – Request for Acceptance

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board accept the City of Nanaimo's request for acceptance of their Regional Context Statement (within City Plan Bylaw 2022 No. 6600) as submitted to the Regional District of Nanaimo on July 21, 2022.

BACKGROUND

Legislated Considerations

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) is one of an interconnected series of management plans used to guide future growth and land use activities throughout the region. The RGS sets out a regional policy framework, embedded in sustainability principles, for land use planning related to regional utilities (water, liquid and solid waste), housing, transportation and the environment. The RGS is considered alongside of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board's Strategic Plan in decision-making and is implemented through policies in Electoral Area Official Community Plans (OCP) and the Regional Context Statements (RCS) embedded within each member municipality's OCP. Detailed land use policies and regulations within the OCPs and zoning bylaws of each local government are guided by the RCS.

Under provincial legislation, a RCS must outline how a municipal community's aspirations will align with the regional vision and goals established in the RGS over time. Municipalities use the RCS to explain the relationship between the policies of the OCP and the regional goals of the RGS and to address how the OCP is to be made consistent with the RGS overtime.

The City of Nanaimo Council adopted a new Official Community Plan, "City Plan Bylaw 2022 No. 6600" (also referred to as City Plan - Nanaimo ReImagined¹) containing an updated RCS on July 4, 2022. In accordance with Sections 446 and 448 of the *Local Government Act*, the City of Nanaimo has submitted a formal request for the new RCS to be accepted by the RDN Board. The full City Plan document (300 pages) is available on the City's webpage and a copy of the RCS has been attached (Attachment 1: Letter of Acceptance Request, Attachment 2: Certified City Resolution and Attachment 3: City of Nanaimo, City Plan, Appendix A-RCS).

¹ City of Nanaimo, City Plan, 2022. The RCS is found in Part A1.5 of the City Plan (pages 11-12) and associated Appendix A (pages A-1 to A-9). <u>www.nanaimo.ca/docs/city-plan-documents/b6600.pdf</u>

From the date of this staff report (September 27, 2022), the Board has 120 days to either accept or refuse to accept the RCS by resolution. If the Board refuses to accept the RCS, then it must provide: (a) each provision to which it objects; and (b) the reason for the objection. Failure to resolve conflicts would require a dispute resolution process as outlined in the governing legislation.

Regional Growth Strategy Update

In 2018, the Board gave direction to proceed with an update of the current RGS bylaw. The update does not alter the fundamental vision, goals, land use designations and sustainability principals on which the RGS is founded. The review focusses on incorporating the most current information applicable to climate adaptation and mitigation, land use and mobility, housing, performance measures used to monitor the RGS and demographic information. The resulting policy recommendations are informed by a combination of technical research and engagement activities designed to gather input from the member municipalities, various RDN Departments, residents, interest groups and Qualicum, Snaw-Naw-As and Snuneymuxw First Nations.

The update is progressing as scheduled with the completion of engagement activities between March and July 2022. These efforts enabled the development of a draft RGS amendment bylaw, which will be presented to the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) for review and comment before proceeding to the Board. The IAC provides a forum of government representatives from member municipalities, provincial agencies First Nations and other organizations identified by the Province to help coordinate actions, policies, and programs as they relate to the strategy.

Throughout the RGS review process, representatives from the City of Nanaimo have actively participated, sharing their knowledge and expertise to ensure the interconnectedness between the RGS and the City Plan (and the embedded RCS) remains evident.

Further information about the update of the RGS, including the Summary of Engagement report can be found on the RDN webpage: <u>www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/RGSreview</u>

Land Use Implications

Prior to adoption of the City Plan, RDN Planning Staff provided input on the draft OCP and RCS (dated February 2022) to identify areas for enhancement to ensure the RCS aligns with the RGS goals and policies. These suggestions have been addressed in the RCS prepared for acceptance by the RDN Board. In addition, it was confirmed no changes are proposed to the Grown Containment Boundary, so it remains consistent with the RGS located at the current legal boundary of the City of Nanaimo.

Significant care was taken by the City of Nanaimo in formatting the RCS, both in images and text corresponding to the RGS goals and applicable OCP sections, and easily shows the interconnected relationship between these guiding policy documents. Given the content and representation of the information, the recommendation is the City's RCS is consistent with the goals and policies of the RGS. This also considers the proposed changes arising for the update of the RGS.

Sustainability Implications

The RGS is the coordinating document for the RDN and member municipalities on matters affecting the management of growth and regional sustainability. The RGS provides partners with a framework to achieve shared goals while maintaining the autonomy of the local jurisdictions. The RCS in the City of Nanaimo OCP confirms the goals and policies of the OCP are consistent with the regional goals of the RGS to create a sustainable region.

Given this information, it is recommended the Board accept the City of Nanaimo's Regional Context Statement as part of the City Plan (Bylaw No. 6600, 2022).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the Board's 2022 – 2026 Financial Plan arising from the acceptance of the City of Nanaimo's RCS.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

This request is consistent with the provincial legislative for regional districts and municipalities where a regional growth strategy has been adopted by bylaw and relates to the Board's priority area:

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

REVIEWED BY:

- K. Fowler, Manager, Long Range Planning, Energy and Sustainability
- L. Grant, General Manager, Planning and Development
- E. Tian, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Letter of Request, dated July 21, 2022
- 2. Certified Council Resolution
- 3. City of Nanaimo, City Plan, Appendix A: Regional Context Statement, July 4, 2022



July 21, 2022

Lisa Grant General Manager of Planning and Development Regional District of Nanaimo 6300 Hammond Bay Road Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2

Dear Ms. Grant:

Re: City Plan – Nanaimo ReImagined "City Plan Bylaw 2022 No. 6600"

The City of Nanaimo is pleased to announce that Nanaimo City Council adopted City Plan – Nanaimo ReImagined on July 4, 2022. City Plan will serve as Nanaimo's: Official Community Plan (OCP); Parks, Recreation, Culture, & Wellness Plan; Active Mobility Plan; Transportation Plan; Climate Action & Resiliency Plan; and Accessibility & Inclusion Plan.

In accordance with Sections 446 and 448 of the Local Government Act, the purpose of this letter is to formally request that the Regional Context Statement (RCS) contained within City Plan be accepted by the RDN Board. A copy of the adopted City Plan can be accessed at the following web link: https://www.nanaimo.ca/docs/city-plan-documents/b6600.pdf

The RCS can be found in Part A1.5 of the City Plan (pages 11-12) and associated Appendix A (pages A-1 to A-9).

If you have any questions about the RCS section of the City Plan, we would be pleased to meet with you or your staff to address these questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bhopalsingh Director, Community Development (250) 755-4429 (ext. 4423)

CC: Dale Lindsay, General Manager of Development Services/Deputy CAO Lisa Brinkman, Manager, Community Planning Kim Fowler, Manager, Long Range Planning, Sustainability, Energy, Regional District of Nanaimo (email: kfowler@rdn.bc.ca) Jamai Schile, Senior Planner, Long Range Planning and Development, Regional District of Nanaimo (email: jschile@rdn.bc.ca)



REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

2022-JUL-04

- 9. BYLAWS:
 - (c) <u>"City Plan Bylaw 2022 No. 6600"</u>

It was moved and seconded that "City Plan Bylaw 2022 No. 6600" be adopted. The motion carried.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Phone: 250-754-4405 Fax: 250-755-4435 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada, V9R 5J6

APPENDIX A: REGIONAL CONTEXT STATEMENT

GOAL1

Prepare for Climate Change and Reduce Energy Consumption

Reduce GHG emissions and energy consumption and promote adaptive measures to prepare for climate change impacts.

RELATED CITY PLAN CONTENT SECTIONS POLICY DIRECTIONS





GOAL 3 Coordinate Land Use & Mobility

Ensure land use patterns and mobility networks are mutually supportive and work together to reduce automobile dependency and provide for efficient goods movement

RELATED CITY PLAN CONTENT			
SECTIONS	POLICY DIRECTIONS		
C2.1 Connected Communities	 » Encourages alignment of land use and mobility networks by incorporating both land use and mobility directions » Prioritizes walking, rolling, cycling, and transit routes in all Urban Centres » Aligns road standards with adjacent land uses 		
C2.2 Integrated Walk, Roll, Cycle, & Transit Network	 » Encourages provision of active transportation amenities in and between Urban Centres » Supports rapid and frequent transit networks connecting the city's Urban Centres » Seeks to work with others to coordinate land based, marine, and air transportation networks to reduce reliance on personal vehicles when connecting between modes » Recognizes the E&N corridor as an integral active transportation corridor 		
D4.3 Centres	 » Locates the city's seven Urban Centres to align with mobility hubs » Encourages Urban Centres to evolve into complete communities that allow daily needs to be met within each Urban Centre » Requires each Urban Centre to have a centrally located transit exchange or transit stop with integrated pedestrian access 		
D4.4 Corridors	 » Aligns the city's Corridors with planned rapid and frequent transit routes » Prioritizes safe and accessible movement of pedestrians, cyclists, and transit in Corridor development 		

RELATED CITY PLAN CONTENT

GOAL 4

learn

Concentrate Housing & Jobs in Rural Village and Urban Growth Centres

Establish distinctive



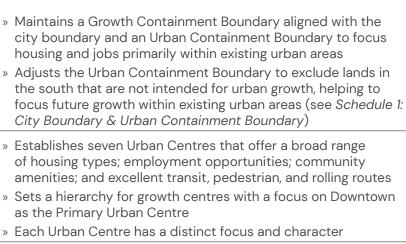
City Boundary & Urban Containment Boundary





D4.3

Centres





D4.5

Neighbourhoods

- » Establishes Corridors along primary transit routes and encourages mixed-use and multi-unit residential development that provide both destinations and critical connections between Urban Centres
- » Encourages modest infill in neighbourhoods, especially those in close proximity to Urban Centres or Corridors to encourage walking, cycling, rolling, and transit access to core service areas
- » In locations further from Urban Centres or Corridors. encourages formation of local hubs around school sites (through partnerships), where educational activities can be combined with day-to-day small scale neighbourhood needs such as daycare; recreation; culture and wellness space; corner store: cafe: cultural amenities: and other local-serving elements.

		store, care, cultural amenities, and other local-serving elements
GOAL 5 Enhance Rural Integrity		» Maintains an Urban Containment Boundary that separates urban uses and areas for growth from lands with significant natural, agricultural, or ecological values
Protect and strengther the region's rural economy and lifestyle	D D2.1 City Boundary & Urban Containment Boundary	 Recognizes Nanaimo as a centre for growth in the region and encourages densification in Urban Centre, Corridor, and Neighbourhood designations to reduce pressure on rural areas
		» Redesignates lands in the south end of the city from Resort to Resource Management and adjusts the Urban Containment Boundary to exclude these lands in keeping with surrounding land uses and servicing capacity (see Schedule 1: City Boundary & Urban Containment Boundary)
		 Designates ALR, forested, and environmentally sensitive lands as Resource Management lands, not intended for urban development
	D4.8 Green Spaces	» Discourages removal of lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve (see Schedule 2: Future Land Use Designations)

RELATED CITY PLAN CONTENT SECTIONS POLICY DIRECTIONS

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GOAL 6 Facilitate the Provision of Affordable Housing Support and facilitate the provision of appropriate, adequate, attainable, affordable, and adaptable housing	C3.2 Affordable Housing	 » Considers a range of tools to support and encourage new affordable housing and limit loss of existing affordable housing » Seeks to increase the variety of housing options and tenures to meet changing housing needs » Supports incentives for the provision of affordable housing » Restricts short term rentals and prevents conversion of market rental buildings to strata when rental vacancy rates are low » Supports working with the Regional District of Nanaimo, First Nations, regional partners, and senior levels of government to address regional housing needs
	C3.3 Intergenerational Living	 Encourages aging-in-place through adaptable unit requirements and increased universal accessibility in new and existing housing
	C3.1 Community Safety & Security	 » Supports improved access to health and housing services through partnerships to help meet the needs of marginalized residents » Encourages more effective coordination of services to meet community health and housing needs » Supports and encourages development of accommodation options to rapidly re-house those experiencing homelessness
	C4.2 Equity & Inclusivity	» Encourages opportunities to co-locate civic facilities and affordable housing and integrate community-servicing facilities in affordable housing projects
	D4.3 Centres	» Encourages a variety of housing forms to meet all demographics and incomes in Urban Centres (see Figure 25: Residential Land Use Overview)
	D4.5 Neighbourhoods	 » Encourages infill and innovative housing forms to increase housing options in Neighbourhoods (see Figure 25: Residential Land Use Overview) » Supports conversion of character homes to multi-unit residential where appropriate » Supports secondary suites

RELATED CITY PLAN CONTENT SECTIONS POLICY DIRECTIONS





D4.7 Waterfront

Support strategic economic development and link commercial and industrial strategies _ to the land use and rural and environmental protection priorities of the region

C5.1 Economic Capital	 » Ensures adequate supply of appropriately zoned lands for existing business expansion and new business operations » Recognizes the city's potential as the transportation, cargo, and logistics hub of Vancouver Island and seeks to enable efficient movement of people, goods, and services » Encourages positioning of Nanaimo as a Health Care Centre of Excellence
C5.2 Human, Social, & Environmental Capital	 » Seeks to retain existing talent and attract new talent to the area » Promotes green economic development opportunities including green energy and energy conservation » Seeks to establish the use of circular economy principles
C5.3 Business Development	 » Seeks to support business retention and expansion » Works collaboratively with First Nations to identify areas of joint action and economic development initiatives that bring shared prosperity
C5.4 Innovation & Technology	 » Encourages robust internet connectivity and access » Supports working towards designation as an "Intelligent City" that puts data and digital technology to work » Encourages development and leveraging of the technology sector
C5.5 Place Making & Investment Attraction	 » Encourages strategic investment in key assets like the Downtown and the Waterfront » Promotes a strong reputation within and beyond the city as an attractive place to live, learn, work, and invest
C5.6 Tourism	 » Protects and promotes the city's assets that make it desirable to visit » Promotes development of Indigenous led tourism opportunities and experiences through partnerships with First Nations » Supports collaboration on destination development plans, tourism, and marketing
D4.6 Industrial Lands	 » Encourages a regional approach to managing industrial lands » Discourages re-designation of industrial lands to other uses » Encourages clean, sustainable industrial uses and consideration for eco-industrial networks » Limits office, residential, or recreational uses in industrial areas » Promotes and supports economic agriculture and food processing opportunities

» Recognizes and supports marine based industrial uses in parts of the waterfront

RELATED CITY PLAN CONTENT SECTIONS POLICY DIRECTIONS

RGS GOAL

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GOAL 8 Enhance Food Security		» Maintains a Growth Containment Boundary aligned with the city boundary and an Urban Containment Boundary that separates urban uses and areas for growth from lands with significant natural, agricultural, or ecological values
Protect and enhance the capacity of the region to produce and process food	D2.1 City Boundary & Urban Containment Boundary	» Recognizes Nanaimo as a centre for growth in the region and encourages densification in Urban Centre, Corridor, and Neighbourhood designations to reduce pressure on rural areas
	C3.4 Food Security	 » Supports and advocates for food security and nutrition for all residents » Supports local food infrastructure on City owned lands including farmers markets, urban farms, and community gardens » Encourages collaboration on food security at a regional level
	D4.8 Green Spaces	 » Allows for agricultural uses in the Resource Management designation » Discourages removal of lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve
GOAL 9 Celebrate Pride of Place Celebrate the unique natural beauty, culture, history, and arts of the region	C4.1 Truth & Reconciliation	» Seeks to preserve, celebrate, and elevate Indigenous heritage in collaboration with First Nations including through place-naming, signage, art, and other measures
	C4.3 Access for All	» Seeks to reduce barriers in the community so people of all ages and abilities can move freely
	C4.5 Culture	 » Recognizes the importance of culture in contributing to quality of life » Encourages continued growth of the culture sector through experiences and collaboration
	C4.6 Archaeology & Heritage	 » Maintains a Heritage Conservation Program » Integrates heritage resource management into development approval and planning processes » Seeks to increase public awareness and understanding of heritage and First Nations
	C4.7 Public Art Projects & Programs	» Seeks to integrate public art into the experience of the community
	C4.8 Community Events, Festivals, Tournaments, & Gatherings	 » Encourages community festivals, celebrations, and events » Supports continuing to work with First Nations to support the development of venues and co-hosting of local, regional, provincial, and national sporting and cultural events » Encourages creation of spaces that support events and gatherings

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RGS GOAL	SECTIONS	POLICY DIRECTIONS
GOAL 10 Provide Services Efficiently Provide efficient, cost effective services and infrastructure	D2.1 City Boundary & Urban Containment Boundary	 » Does not support extension of servicing beyond the Urban Containment Boundary, except for health or environmental reasons » Promotes concentration of people and jobs in urban centres to support more efficient use of services
	C1.5 Water, Sewer, & Stormwater Services	 Restricts growth in areas with sewer, water, drainage, or infrastructure capacity limitations until there is confirmed funding and plans to address shortfalls Seeks to coordinate infrastructure upgrades to optimize community investments Continues to monitor water use to ensure protection of our drinking water source Supports the Regional District of Nanaimo's Liquid Waste Management Plan
		 Seeks to manage stormwater efficiently, including the role of natural assets in stormwater management
	C1.6 Solid Waste Management	 » Seeks to increase public awareness and participation in the zero waste mandate » Seeks to set fees for solid waste collection to provide service at an acceptable cost while reducing unnecessary waste
	C3.6 Recreation, Culture, & Wellness	 » Encourages thoughtful planning, design, and management of new or upgraded civic facilities to maximize benefit and lifespan of investment » Encourages collaboration with community partners in the joint use and development of recreation, sport, culture, and wellness facilities
GOAL 11 Enhance Cooperation Among Jurisdictions Facilitate an	C4.1 Truth & Reconciliation	 Continues to collaborate with First Nations on projects of mutual environmental, economic, social, and cultural interest on their Traditional Territories Supports continued engagement with First Nations governments in accordance with Protocol Agreements
understanding of, and commitment to, the goals of growth management among all levels of government, the public, and key private and voluntary	C4.4 Political Voice & Engagement	 » Seeks to provide opportunities for all community members to engage meaningfully in civic life
sector partners	Various Sections	 » Supports ongoing formal agreements with the Regional District of Nanaimo for growth management, waste management, sewer services, transit operations, and recreation services » Supports cooperation with the Province, Regional District of Nanaimo, and stewardship groups on environmental management

RELATED CITY PLAN CONTENT

» Section E5 Relationships outlines a commitment to collaboration, communication, and coordination for the good of all