

1.6.4 Amendment

Subject to the *Municipal Act* and the terms of “Regional District of Nanaimo Land Use and Subdivision Bylaw No. 500, 1987,” application may be made to amend this Official Community Plan.

This Plan Area is a development approval information area.³

1.7 REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Growth Management Plan for the Regional District of Nanaimo was adopted in January 1997. This Official Community Plan has been developed in recognition of the Growth Management Plan and the philosophy, direction and approach that it advances. Generally, this Plan supports the broad goals of urban containment, protection of rural integrity, protection of environmentally significant features, improved mobility, the creation of a vibrant and sustainable rural economy, efficient services and resource use, and cooperation among jurisdictions. Specifically, this Plan promotes the establishment and maintenance of an urban containment boundary, the protection of rural lands for rural uses, the protection of valuable agriculture, forestry and other resource lands, and the protection of the environment, particularly water resources.

The Regional Board shall ensure that proposed amendments to this Plan are consistent with the goals and policies of the Regional Growth Management Plan.

1.8 PLAN INTERPRETATION

The Plan is divided into a number of sections each dealing a different element of the community, including natural resource management, development strategy and parks and open space. Some sections are further divided into sub-sections, such as agriculture in the case of natural resource management. Each section and sub-section is comprised of specific objectives and policies.

Objectives are an expression of community values and long-term aspirations. They are the community’s statement of what is important and its vision of the future. In this sense, objectives are the official community plan’s foundation, establishing its overall direction and focus. The time necessary to fulfill objectives may vary considerably. Some may require a significant amount of time that extends beyond this Plan’s timeframe, necessitating an on-going commitment. Others demand less of a time commitment and can be implemented in the short term.

Successful attainment of the Plan’s objectives requires a combination of individual and policy initiatives. The actions and decisions of individuals have a tremendous impact on the realization of community values and aspirations, while an effective and well-crafted

³ Bylaw No. 1055 adopted June 13, 2000

set of policies complement their actions. Policies establish the framework that guides decision-making by the Regional District. Each of the policies in this Plan relate directly to stated objectives. Some policies may be highly specialized and address specific issues, situations or conditions while others may have a more generalized applicability.

In the context of this Plan, policies can generally be categorized as either an *action* or *development activated*. Policies throughout the Plan have been arranged into these categories in an effort to enhance understanding of their rationale and implications. The two policy types are described as follows.

Action policies represent the basis of the Plan's decision-making framework by providing clear direction on particular issues, establishing a favoured course of action or stating a preferred scenario, circumstance, set of conditions or outcome. Generally, these policies provide guidance to the Regional District and other levels of government when addressing planning-related issues or situations.

Development activated policies apply specifically to proposed changes in land use or development where the likelihood of change or impact on the broader community, including the environment, is considered the greatest. The policies are designed to address these potential impacts by setting out assessment criteria. They remain 'silent' until such time that a change in land use or development is proposed. Once this occurs the policy is 'activated' and its requirements must be fulfilled. Otherwise, the policy has no effect.