

REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014

CLOSED

SUBJECT FLOOD HAZARD AREA LAND USE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES
AMENDMENTS – UPDATE

ISSUE

To update the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board on technical, legal and financial implications of proposed amendments to the 2004 Province of BC *Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines*.

BACKGROUND

Sea levels are anticipated to rise as a result of climate change. The Province of BC estimates sea levels will rise by approximately 1 metre by 2100. Legislative changes to the *Land Title Act* and the *Local Government Act* in 2003 and 2004 removed the role of the Minister of Environment for flood plain designation and approval, shifting this authority entirely to local governments. In 2004, the *Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines* were published to assist local governments in identifying and designating flood hazard areas. The Province has proposed amendments to the guidelines to incorporate considerations for sea level rise and has invited local governments to consult on the amendments until October 31, 2014.

At the June 25, 2014 meeting of the CRD Environmental Services Committee, the committee directed staff to further review and report back on the technical, legal and financial implications of the proposed amendments to the Provincial *Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines*.

Staff have responded to this direction in the following ways:

- In-house review of financial and technical implications of the guidelines has been completed.
- CRD staff have obtained legal advice on the implications the guidelines could have for the region.
- Staff hosted a legal seminar on September 17, 2014 to share results of the review with local government staff within the region.

These findings were presented in closed session to the Environmental Services Committee on October 1, 2014. At this meeting, the committee directed staff to sever the confidential information included within the Closed Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines Report, and to make all non-confidential information publicly available. This report presents the results of the confidential information included within the closed staff report, including estimated flood construction level mapping, a review of financial considerations and external legal review of the guidelines (Appendix A).

RECOMMENDATION

That the CRD Board receive the update report for information.



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Attachment: 1