REQUEST FOR DECISION
SLRD Regional Growth Strategy Review
Initiation

Meeting date: February 18, 2016

To: SLRD Board / Committee of the Whole

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT pursuant to Section 452(2) of the Local Government Act, the Board consider a 5 year review of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008.

THAT the Board accept the Regional Growth Strategy Steering Committee recommendation to initiate a review of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008, and to initiate the review as a Major Amendment, to address issues identified through the 2015 RGS Review Scoping Period.

THAT the Board direct staff to prepare a Consultation Plan regarding the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008 Review as per Sections 434(2) and (3) of the Local Government Act.

THAT the Board provide input on the Regional Growth Strategy Steering Committee recommendations presented in the report.

KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:

Section 452(2) of the Local Government Act (LGA) sets requirements for regional districts with adopted regional growth strategies. Specifically, at least once every 5 years, a regional district that has adopted a regional growth strategy must consider whether the regional growth strategy must be reviewed for possible amendment.

As it has been seven years since the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Bylaw was completed (the RGS Bylaw was completed and received first/second reading in 2008, though not adopted until 2010), the SLRD needs to consider whether a review of the RGS is required.
On April 22, 2015 the Board resolved:

_That the Board consider the 5 year review of the “Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008” as per Section 869(2) of the Local Government Act._

_That the Board accept the RGS Steering Committee recommendation to not initiate a review of the “Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008” at this time, and to instead undergo a preliminary review period through the RGS Steering Committee._

_That the Board direct staff to follow up with a report and recommendations regarding the “Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008” review at the end of 2015._

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Steering Committee met regularly throughout 2015 to conduct the preliminary review/scoping period, with 8 scoping period sessions held in total. Based on the Key Findings and Recommendations (detailed below) of the scoping period, the RGS Steering Committee recommends: 1) the Board initiate a review of the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008 (RGS); and 2) the Board initiate the review as a major amendment, to provide for revisions to the Minor Amendment Process.

SLRD staff is seeking guidance and feedback from the Board on the RGS Steering Committee recommendations. Such direction will enable staff to develop an appropriate consultation plan and review process.

**RELEVANT POLICIES:**
Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1062, 2008

**BACKGROUND:**

Regional Growth Strategies
Most of BC’s high growth regions – comprising 83 percent of the population – are using regional growth strategies to manage population change and guide decision-making and collaboration. The purpose of a regional growth strategy under Section 428(1) of Part 13 of the LGA is to “promote human settlement that is socially, economically, and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities and services, land and other resources.”.

Covering a period of at least 20 years, the SLRD RGS is intended to “provide a broad policy framework describing the common direction that the regional district and member municipalities will follow in promoting development and services which are sustainable,
recognizing a long term responsibility for the quality of life for future generations”. Regular review of the RGS Bylaw helps ensure consistency and relevance in planning documents and approaches across the region. It also continues to foster a collective commitment to the RGS vision and supports collaborative governance.

Regional Growth Strategy Amendments
In 2014, staff completed a housekeeping amendment of the RGS undertaken to provide for the acceptance of member municipality Official Community Plan Regional Context Statements, and also made some minor housekeeping changes to the RGS. The housekeeping amendment did not involve a comprehensive review of the RGS. The concept of a 5 year review of the RGS is supported by the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (MCSCD) as well as the RGS Steering Committee*.

* The RGS Steering Committee is comprised of the planning director, or another official appointed by the applicable Board/Council, of the SLRD, District of Lillooet, Village of Pemberton, Resort Municipality of Whistler, and District of Squamish as well as Brent Mueller, Regional Growth Strategies Manager at the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (MCSCD).

Purpose of the RGS Review
Meet LGA Requirements: the LGA requires a regular review of regional growth strategies, with a review to be considered at least once every five years.

Improve Implementation: through implementation of the RGS Bylaw, SLRD staff and the RGS Steering Committee have identified some issues with the RGS, including the Minor Amendment Criteria and Process that may require further revision.

Evolve Policy and Processes: the SLRD has experienced considerable change since the RGS was initiated in 2003. There have also been changes at the provincial and federal level that have impacted regional district planning. Finally, member municipalities, through the RGS Steering Committee, have identified a number of issues to be considered. Consideration of a 5 year review will provide the opportunity to evolve policy and processes to reflect the current and future context.

Continue Collaboration: an RGS 5 year review will continue the collaborative efforts as noted in the RGS Bylaw by continuing to assist all parties with an interest in the region to:
1. Work together to address matters of common regional concern;
2. Demonstrate respect for each other’s jurisdictions and processes;
3. Maintain good communications and coordination with respect to land use and other decisions of a regional and sub-regional nature;
4. Create a long term vision informed by the key principles of sustainability and embark on a path to our future in a manner that finds a responsible balance between the environmental, economic, and social needs of our communities.
Scoping Period Process
The RGS Steering Committee met regularly throughout 2015 to conduct the preliminary review/scoping period, with 8 scoping period sessions held in total. Key Items to Address were identified from the outset of the process, with each session focusing on a topic(s) accordingly. These topics included:

- Minor Amendment Criteria and Process;
- Growth Management;
- Waste Management;
- Transportation;
- Food & Agriculture;
- Climate Change; and
- First Nations Relations.

Note: The Minor Amendment Criteria and Process and Growth Management topics spanned multiple sessions, with extensive discussion/debate and detailed recommendations resulting (See Appendices A and B).

During the scoping period, the RGS Steering Committee also developed a Terms of Reference for the committee and regularly provided Regional Roundtable updates – enhancing collaboration and communication between member municipalities and the SLRD on a range of regional and inter-municipal planning initiatives.

ANALYSIS:

Scoping Period – Key Findings and Recommendations
The following Table 1 outlines the Key Findings and Recommendations, by topic area, of the RGS Review Scoping Period. The Key Findings and Recommendations were developed through in person meetings of the RGS Steering Committee, involving extensive collaboration and consensus-based decision making.

Table 1: Scoping Period – RGS Steering Committee Key Findings and Recommendations

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| Minor Amendment Criteria and Process | Meeting #1-5 (May 20, June 4, July 8, Aug 12, Sept 10, 2015) | Through implementation of the RGS, it has been identified that the RGS Amendment Criteria and Process creates confusion for planning staff, elected officials and the public. Specific issues that were identified include:  
  - Ambiguity around what is regionally significant;  
  - Emphasis placed on Goal 1, rather than all RGS Goals;  
  - Confusion with language, | • Update/Revise RGS Amendment Criteria and Process to increase clarity and tools available to support decision-making and reflect current best practices used by other regional districts (RDs).  
• Initiate RGS Review as a major amendment process as any revisions to the RGS Amendment Criteria and Process require a major amendment process. |
process, order of section content, and requirements of the LGA. Note that proposed changes are to increase clarity and ease of implementation, as per best practices; they are not substantive in terms of content.

*See Appendix A: RGS Amendment Criteria and Process for details of the proposed revisions.*

- Increase clarity around implementation of Minor Amendment Criteria through by providing examples of what amendments are considered regionally significant. The following is recommended, and included on page 2 of Appendix A:
  
  Although not considered an exhaustive list, the following types of amendments are considered regionally significant:
  
  - Those that include land in the Agricultural Land Reserve or will negatively impact agricultural lands;
  - Development of non-settlement lands that are not contiguous to existing designated settlement areas; and,
  - Those that would have significant impacts to the regional highway system and may negatively affect level of service.

**RATIONALE**

The RGS Steering Committee focused much of the Scoping Period discussions on the RGS Minor Amendment Criteria and Process, with efforts made to: increase clarity around implementation of the RGS Bylaw and Amendment Process; support growth management priorities; and reflect current best practices – while maintaining flexibility for the SLRD Board in its decision-making.

*Minor Amendment Criteria*: the RGS Steering Committee felt that including a list (not exhaustive) of amendments considered to be regionally significant would provide clarity to the public and Board regarding what amendments would trigger a major amendment process. This approach is in keeping with best practices found in most other RD RGS Bylaws.

No public hearing is required for minor amendments to the RGS – this is clarified in the outlined process.

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<td>Growth Management</td>
<td>Meeting #3–6 (July 8, Aug 12, Sept 10, Oct 8)</td>
<td><em>Part 4 Implementation and Monitoring</em> chapter is outdated and</td>
<td>Update layout and content of <em>Part 4 Implementation and</em></td>
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missing important content. Further, additional tools have been established to support implementation of regional growth strategies. Specific issues include:

- No content on **Regional Context Statements**, which are the main implementation tool of the RGS;
- Detailed **Implementation Agreements** section, none of which have been implemented;
- No content related to coordination with other governments/agencies or First Nations;
- No content related to RGS Reviews.

**Monitoring** chapter to: increase clarity; highlight the variety of implementation tools, approaches, and processes; and reflect current best practices used by other RDs.

*See Appendix B: RGS Part 4 Implementation for details of the proposed revisions.*

### RATIONALE

**Regional Context Statements (RCS):** providing content regarding the purpose and requirements of RCSs is a best practice found in most RGS Bylaws.

**Implementation Agreements and Guidelines:** remove specific Implementation Agreements listed, as none have been implemented to date, and instead leave the general description, enabling Implementation Agreements to be developed on an as needed basis. Provide content to enable the development of Implementation Guidelines, as an additional (and sometimes preferred) option to Implementation Agreements.

**Coordination with other Government Agencies and First Nations:** include language that highlights the importance of collaboration with other government agencies and First Nations, as related to implementation of the RGS Bylaw.

**Legislative Requirements:** include language that highlights the legislative requirements, set out in the LGA, for regular reports and review of regional growth strategies.

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| Growth Management (Land Use Designations) | Meeting #3-6 (July 8, Aug 12, Sept 10, Oct 8, 2015) | Update sections under **Goal 1 Focus Development into Compact, Complete, Sustainable Communities** to increase clarity, consistency and flow of chapter and RGS Bylaw in general. Specific issues include:  
  - Confusing section titles and layout of the Land Use Designations Section.  
  - Inconsistencies with and irrelevance of some land use designations. |  
  - Update Land Use Designations section layout and section titles.  
  - Remove description of **Special Planning Areas**, as the term creates confusion and is no longer relevant.  
  - Remove term **Future Growth Nodes** from mapping and text, and instead designate these as **Urban Areas**, to which growth is to be directed to under the RGS Bylaw. |
- Inconsistencies with member municipality Settlement Planning Maps.

- Relocate Destination Resorts description, as this is not a land use designation under the RGS Bylaw.
- Review and revise/update where necessary, the Table 1: Description of Settlement Planning Map to ensure consistency, relevance, and applicability within and across jurisdictions.

**RATIONALE**

*Special Planning Areas:* The current description and mapping identify two specific areas only – the Callaghan and the Lillooet Area; a study has been completed for Lilooet and the Board opted not to proceed with a special study for the Callaghan. Designation is no longer relevant and creates confusion, as there are no ‘special planning areas’ currently.

*Future Growth Nodes:* The term Future Growth Node has created confusion, as it is only used in the Village of Pemberton Map, has no description in Table 1 Description of Settlement Planning Map, nor is it included in the land use designations descriptions. Land mapped as Future Growth Node should really just fall under the Urban Areas land use designation, as the intent of this designation is to direct growth here.

*Destination Resorts:* Destination Resorts are not included in any of the Settlement Planning mapping or descriptions, and thus a different location in the document may be more appropriate to reduce confusion in bulleting, etc. Destination Resorts is not a land use designation.

*Table 1 Description of Settlement Planning Map:* A review will ensure that member municipality mapping and SLRD mapping are aligned.

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| Waste Management       | Meeting #7 (Nov 5, 2015) | There is a need to ensure alignment with the SLRD Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (SWRMP) and to update the RGS Bylaw accordingly. Most revisions will likely be housekeeping in nature. Specific issues that were identified include:  
  - Outdated targets and plan references/language in Goal 5 Protect Natural Eco-system Functioning.  
  - Potential for stronger language around support for the SWRMP and communications and outreach/educations around zero | • Update/Revise Goal 5 Protect Natural Eco-system Functioning to align with the SWRMP (targets and language).  
• Add “diverted” to (i) on page 41 of the RGS Bylaw, to read: *Supports minimizing adverse impacts by carefully managing where and how development occurs, how wastes are reduced and diverted, and how resources are managed.*  
• Explore the idea of developing stronger language in the RGS Bylaw around ensuring collaboration and support for |
waste would be beneficial. the SWRMP, including land use planning and communication/outreach/education around zero waste.

## RATIONALE

The SWRMP is a regional plan, developed by the SLRD, as mandated by the Provincial Environmental Management Act that provides a long-term vision for solid waste management, including waste diversion and disposal activities. As part of updating this plan, new targets have been established for the SLRD, which should be reflected in the RGS Bylaw. Further, priorities for the SWRMP include *Moving from awareness to action (behaviour change)* and Educating and improving awareness – the RGS Bylaw could add language to reflect these priorities. The SWRMP also highlights the importance of land use planning and suggests, *to ensure that there is a suitable land base available to support the solid waste related goals and initiatives laid out in this plan, as well as in other SLRD and municipal planning documents, it is proposed that municipal and SLRD solid waste staff collaborate...*

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<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Meeting #7 (Nov 5, 2015)</td>
<td>There is a need to ensure content under <strong>Goal 2 Improve Transportation Linkages and Options</strong> is accurate and current. Most revisions will likely be housekeeping in nature. Discussion took place around the value of <em>Table 2: Regional Road Network Improvement Priorities</em>. It was suggested that there is value in having a prioritized list. It was also recognized that new transportation priorities have come up, thus the table needs updating. Further, it was suggested that a corresponding table for <strong>Preferred Modes of Transportation Priorities</strong> be developed through the RGS Review.</td>
<td>• Review/update <strong>Goal 2 Improve Transportation Linkages and Options</strong> to ensure that regional initiatives and goals are adequately reflected/addressed. • Look at the District of Squamish Multimodal Study, RMOW Transportation Study, and other member municipality plans, and update RGS Bylaw as necessary. • Include MOTI in the review of the <strong>Goal 2 Improve Transportation Linkages and Options</strong> to see if there are updates warranted from the ministry side. • Revise/update <em>Table 2: Regional Road Network Improvement Priorities</em> to reflect completed projects and new priorities. • Develop a <strong>Preferred Modes of Transportation Priorities</strong> table, corresponding to the <em>Table 2: Regional Road Network Improvement Priorities</em>.</td>
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## RATIONALE

*Review and Collaboration:* New transportation plans, initiatives and priorities (local and provincial) may not be adequately captured in the RGS Bylaw, warranting the review and possible update of Goal 2.

Collaborating with member municipalities and MOTI on the review will ensure alignment and
linkages with other governments and agencies. Transportation presents a significant challenge/opportunity throughout the region.

Priorities Tables: Many priorities identified in Table 2 are now out of date, with some priorities addressed and some now redundant. New regional transportation priorities and initiatives may be missing from the table. Developing a corresponding table for Preferred Modes of Transportation Priorities will help to balance regional transportation priorities so that focus is not just on road networks (i.e. the Sea-to-Sky Trail may be a priority here).

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| Food & Agriculture | Meeting #8 (Dec 3, 2015) | The RGS Bylaw does not have a Food/Agriculture Goal or any such Strategic Directions or policies (any content). This is identified as a major gap that should be addressed through the RGS Review - of the 10 RDs in BC with adopted RGSs, 6 have a specific Food/Agriculture goal and 8 have policies or related strategic directions (the SLRD is one of two RDs that do not include Food or Agriculture in their RGS). It was determined that developing a separate Food/Agriculture goal is the best approach, including strategic directions. It was further suggested that the goal needs to be broad to include agriculture and food systems. | • Develop a new goal in the RGS to address food and agriculture systems.  
• Suggested resources to draw from when developing the new goal include: the SLRD Area Ag Plans (Area B and C), the VoP Agriculture Parks Master Plan, DoS Food Charter, and the RMOW OCP. |

RATIONALE

Food Systems, including food security, is an important emerging issue for local/regional governments that is not covered in the current RGS Bylaw, and may be seen as particularly relevant to long-term planning efforts.

Agriculture is an important land use and economic activity in the region. Given best practices and the needs of the region, developing a new food and agriculture systems goal is warranted.

Further, as a basic human need, building/supporting healthy and resilient food and agriculture systems is particularly important for present and future generations.

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<td>Climate Change</td>
<td>Meeting #8 (Dec 3, 2015)</td>
<td>There is very little content or focus on Climate Change/Energy Emissions in the RGS, compared with other RDs. Most RD’s have opted to have a specific Climate Change/Energy Emissions Goal (8 of 10 RDs).</td>
<td>• Develop a new goal or additional content in the RGS to address Climate Change (i.e. expand Goal 5: Protect Natural Ecosystem Functioning to something like Protect Natural Eco-system Functioning and</td>
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The importance of addressing both adaptation and mitigation was discussed at length. Regional transit was also identified as an important focus.

The Province will be releasing its Climate Leadership Plan in the Spring of 2016 – RGS content and targets may require updating to reflect this new plan.

**RATIONALE**
Climate change is a big issue affecting us all; as such, regional policy/strategies would be beneficial. The pooling of resources and information will support decision-making. Given best practices and the needs of the region, and the new Provincial Climate Leadership Plan, developing a new goal or additional content around Climate Change/Energy Emissions is warranted.

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<td>First Nations</td>
<td>Meeting #8</td>
<td>The RGS content in <em>Goal 8 Enhance Relations with Aboriginal Communities</em> is strong, compared with other RDs.</td>
<td>• Review and update <em>Goal 8 Enhance Relations with Aboriginal Communities</em> as necessary.</td>
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<td>Relations</td>
<td>(Dec 3, 2015)</td>
<td>There is a need to ensure RGS content related to First Nations is accurate/current/realistic, and some sections require updating. Most revisions will likely be housekeeping in nature, including revising language throughout the RGS Bylaw to reflect</td>
<td>• Update language throughout RGS to reflect the Federal Government language transition to Indigenous.</td>
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<td>• Update the Goal 8 Monitoring Indicator, as no data has been available on the current indicator.</td>
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the Federal Government language transition to Indigenous, rather than First Nations or Aboriginal.

The Monitoring Indicator associated with this goal requires updating, as no data has been available for the current indicator.

Recognizing that each First Nation and local government relations are unique, it was suggested that referral protocols are best developed at individual levels, rather than through a regional policy.

Most RDs include content in their RGS Implementation Sections regarding “Coordination with First Nations”.

- Look to develop language in the RGS to encourage member municipalities and the SLRD to develop referral protocols with relevant First Nations.
- Look to include a section in the Implementation chapter that speaks to Recognition of Aboriginal Title and rights.
- Suggested resources to draw from include the Provincial First Nations Engagement Guide.

**RATIONALE**

*Review/Update:* Although the mandated duty to *Consult* is with the Province, consultation is required under the Local Government Act and improved engagement and collaborative planning approaches is desired. Reviewing and updating, where necessary, will facilitate improvements and maintain best practices. Also, one of the SLRD’s 2015-2018 Strategic Directions and Goals is to enhance relationships with aboriginal communities and First Nations with the goal of collaborative, respectful relationships with aboriginal communities and First Nations.

*Update Indicator:* Indicators are only useful if there is data available to monitor. *Implementation and Collaboration with First Nations:* Including a section in the Implementation chapter around Coordination with First Nations emphasizes that relationship building is continuous and collaboration is required at all stages.

**Other SLRD Staff Recommendations**

**Housekeeping Updates**

The RGS Review provides an opportunity to address various RGS Bylaw housekeeping issues, reflecting the “living nature” of these long-term plans. A list of potential housekeeping amendments has been developed (See Appendix C); key examples include logo updates, *Local Government Act* citation updates, updates to *Glossary of Terms* and *Roles and Responsibilities* sections, and general formatting/layout improvements.
Other RGS Steering Committee Recommendations
Affordable Housing Forum
The issue of Affordable Housing was a recurring theme/discussion point at the RGS Steering Committee scoping period meetings. It was suggested that the RGS Review process include the hosting of an Affordable Housing Forum (SLRD to host an Affordable Housing Forum, as part of the RGS Review process) to bring local governments together to discuss issues and shared best practices in an effort to identify/develop approaches to collectively address the pressing issue of Affordable Housing throughout the region.

Process to Date and Proposed Next Steps
1. Initiate a preliminary review/scoping period lead by the RGS Steering Committee (SLRD Board resolution, April 22, 2015)
2. Provide an opportunity for input on the need for review of the RGS, as per Section 452(3) of the Local Government Act (SLRD Board Report and Resolution were forwarded to affected local governments and agencies in April, 2015)
3. Provide the Board with updates on the RGS Steering Committee scoping period, as relevant information is available (SLRD Board Report, October Update)
4. Report back to the Board on the need for review and provide recommendations regarding the RGS Review process, content and schedule (SLRD Board Report February 18, 2016)
5. Initiate RGS Review (Via SLRD Board Resolution, February 18, 2016)
6. Receive input on the Scoping Period - RGS Steering Committee Key Findings and Recommendations (SLRD Board Report February 18, 2016)
7. Prepare a Consultation Plan for the RGS Review, as per Sections 434(2) and (3) of the Local Government Act (By SLRD Board Resolution, spring 2016).
**Major Amendment Process**
The below flow chart illustrates the Major Amendment Process, as per Section 437 of the Local Government Act.

**Affected Local Governments** include the council of each municipality all or part of which is covered by the regional growth strategy, the board of each regional district that is adjoining an area to which the regional growth strategy is to apply, and the facilitator or minister. Specifically, affected local governments for the SLRD are: the District of Squamish; the Resort Municipality of Whistler; the Village of Pemberton; the District of Lillooet; Thompson-Nicola Regional District; Metro Vancouver Regional District; Sunshine Coast Regional District; Fraser Valley Regional District; Powell River Regional District; Strathcona Regional District; Cariboo Regional District; and Ministry Community Sport and Cultural Development.

**Consultation Plan**
As per Sections 452(3) and 434(2) of the Local Government Act, as soon as practicable after the initiation of a regional growth strategy (including a review), the board must adopt a consultation plan that, in the opinion of the board, provides opportunities for early and ongoing consultation with, at a minimum, the following:
(a) its citizens;
(b) affected local governments;
(c) first nations;
(d) boards of education, greater boards and improvement district boards;
(e) the Provincial and federal governments and their agencies.
REGIONAL IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The SLRD Regional Growth Strategy is an initiative of the SLRD, in partnership with the District of Lillooet, the Village of Pemberton, the Resort Municipality of Whistler, and the District of Squamish. The RGS Bylaw is intended to provide a broad policy framework describing the common direction that the SLRD and member municipalities will follow in promoting development and services which are sustainable, recognizing a long term responsibility for the quality of life for future generations. As the RGS Bylaw applies to the four member municipalities and three electoral areas (Electoral Areas B, C, and D; the RGS does not apply to Area A) and spans a 20 year horizon, the goals, strategic directions and resulting implementation process have regional impacts – present and future.

ATTACHMENTS:
Appendix A: RGS Amendment Criteria and Process – Proposed Revisions  
Appendix B: RGS Part 4 Implementation – Proposed Revisions  
Appendix C: RGS Housekeeping Amendments – Recommendations  
SLRD RGS Bylaw No. 1062, 2008 – Available for download on the SLRD Website here:  
http://www.slrd.bc.ca/inside-slrd/bylaws/regional-growth-strategy-bylaw

Submitted by: C. Daniels, Planner  
Endorsed by: K. Needham, Director of Planning and Development  
Reviewed by: L. Flynn, Chief Administrative Officer
The following section outlines the proposed changes to the RGS Minor Amendment Process and Criteria, as suggested by the Regional Growth Strategy Steering Committee. Proposed changes were developed during in person scoping period meetings - through extensive discussions, dialogue and consensus-based decision making.

**RGS Minor Amendments**

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and member municipalities will continue to work to ensure Official Community Plan policies are consistent with the RGS Settlement Planning Map, or provide for a process that will lead to consistency over time, recognizing the economic, social and environmental benefits of compact community development, with particular attention to growth management that assists economic development in Pemberton and revitalization of the Lillooet area. The following outlines the criteria and process for considering minor amendments to the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy.

**Criteria for a Minor Amendment**

Criteria under which a proposed amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy may be considered a minor amendment include the following:

1. Where a land use or development proposal is inconsistent with the Regional Growth Strategy, and, in the opinion of the Board:
   a. is not considered to be of regional significance in terms of scale, impacts or precedence; and
   b. contributes to achieving a compact, complete and sustainable community.

2. Text and map amendments which are not directly related to enabling specific proposed developments may be considered minor if, in the opinion of the Board, the amendment is not of regional significance. (Replaced with below MINOR Amendment Criteria table)

**RGS Minor Amendment Criteria and Process**

a) The process to initiate amendments to the Regional Growth Strategy is by resolution of the SLRD Board. Member municipalities may, by Council resolution, request amendments; typically this will also involve a Regional Context Statement/OCP Amendment, with all amendments processed concurrently.

b) On receipt of a resolution application from a member municipality or the SLRD Board to amend the Regional Growth Strategy, SLRD staff will prepare a preliminary report for review by the RGS Steering Committee. RGS Steering Committee comments and recommendations will be forwarded to the SLRD Regional Board to assist in its decision on whether the application should be processed as a minor or major amendment.

c) The SLRD Board will assess a land use or development proposal or text amendment in terms of the minor amendment criteria, the application in terms of the minor amendment criteria and determine if the amendment application should be treated as a minor or major amendment.
### MINOR Amendment Criteria

Criteria under which a proposed amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy may be considered a minor amendment include the following:

1. Where a land use or development proposal requires an amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy, and, in the opinion of the Board:
   a) is not considered to be of regional significance in terms of scale, impacts or precedence; and
   b) is not inconsistent with the goals of the Regional Growth Strategy.

2. Those text and map amendments required to correct errors or as a result of more accurate information being received relative to existing information;

3. Those housekeeping amendments to population, dwelling unit and employment projections, housing demand estimates, performance measures, tables, figures, key indicators, grammar, or numbering, that do not alter the intent of the Regional Growth Strategy;

4. Anything that is determined to *not* be a minor amendment is to be treated as a major amendment.

Although not considered an exhaustive list, the following types of amendments are considered regionally significant:

- Those that include land in the Agricultural Land Reserve or will negatively impact agricultural lands;
- Development of non-settlement lands that are not contiguous to existing designated settlement areas; and,
- Those that would have significant impacts to the regional highway system and may negatively affect level of service.

d) An affirmative 2/3 vote of the SLRD Board members attending the meeting is required to proceed with a minor amendment process.

The Board may resolve, by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the board members attending the meeting, to proceed with an amendment application as a minor amendment. Where the Board resolves to proceed with an amendment application as a minor amendment, the Board will:

i. determine the appropriate form of public consultation required in conjunction with the proposed minor amendment;

ii. give 30 days written notice to each affected local government, including notice that the proposed amendment has been determined to be a minor amendment. The notice shall include a summary of the proposed amendment and any staff reports, other relevant supporting documentation and the date, time and place of the board meeting at which the amending bylaw is to be considered for first reading;

iii. consider the written comments provided by the affected local governments prior to giving first reading to the proposed amendment bylaw.

c) At the time of consideration of first reading, the Board will determine whether a public hearing on the RGS minor amendment bylaw is required.

d) The minor amendment bylaw shall be adopted in accordance with the procedures that apply to the adoption of a regional growth strategy under section 791 of the Local Government Act and SLRD
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINOR Amendment Process</th>
<th>MAJOR Amendment Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Where the SLRD Board resolves to proceed with an amendment application as a minor amendment, the Board will:  
  i. give 30 days written notice to each affected local government, including notice that the proposed amendment has been determined to be a minor amendment. The notice shall include a summary of the proposed amendment and any staff reports, other relevant supporting documentation and the date, time and place of the Board meeting at which the amending bylaw is to be considered for first reading;  
  ii. consider any representations and written comments provided by the affected local governments prior to giving first reading to the proposed amendment bylaw. | Where the SLRD Board resolves to not proceed with an amendment application as a minor amendment, the amendment becomes a major amendment and may only be adopted through the process outlined in section 436 of the Local Government Act. |

The minor amendment bylaw shall be adopted in accordance with the procedures that apply to the adoption of a regional growth strategy under sections 212 and 437 of the Local Government Act and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Procedure Bylaw No. 1260-2012, as amended from time to time.

No public hearing is required for minor amendments to the RGS.
RGS Amendments

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and member municipalities will continue to work to ensure Official Community Plan policies are consistent with the RGS Settlement Planning Map, or provide for a process that will lead to consistency over time, recognizing the economic, social and environmental benefits of compact community development, with particular attention to growth management that assists economic development in Pemberton and revitalization of the Lillooet area. The following outlines the criteria and process for considering minor amendments to the SLRD Regional Growth Strategy.

RGS Amendment Criteria and Process

a) The process to initiate amendments to the Regional Growth Strategy is by resolution of the SLRD Board. Member municipalities may, by Council resolution, request amendments; typically this will also involve a Regional Context Statement/OCP Amendment, with all amendments processed concurrently.

b) On receipt of a resolution from a member municipality or the SLRD Board to amend the Regional Growth Strategy, SLRD staff will prepare a preliminary report for review by the RGS Steering Committee. RGS Steering Committee comments and recommendations will be forwarded to the SLRD Board to assist in its decision on whether the application should be processed as a minor or major amendment.

c) The SLRD Board will assess the application in terms of the minor amendment criteria and determine if the amendment application should be treated as a minor or major amendment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINOR Amendment Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criteria under which a proposed amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy may be considered a minor amendment include the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Where a land use or development proposal requires an amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy, and, in the opinion of the Board:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) is not considered to be of regional significance in terms of scale, impacts or precedence; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) is not inconsistent with the goals of the Regional Growth Strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Those text and map amendments required to correct errors or as a result of more accurate information being received relative to existing information;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Those housekeeping amendments to population, dwelling unit and employment projections, housing demand estimates, performance measures, tables, figures, key indicators, grammar, or numbering, that do not alter the intent of the Regional Growth Strategy;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Anything that is determined to not be a minor amendment is to be treated as a major amendment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although not considered an exhaustive list, the following types of amendments are considered regionally significant:

- Those that include land in the Agricultural Land Reserve or will negatively impact agricultural lands;
- Development of non-settlement lands that are not contiguous to existing designated settlement areas.
areas; and,
- Those that would have significant impacts to the regional highway system and may negatively affect level of service.

d) An affirmative 2/3 vote of the SLRD Board members attending the meeting is required to proceed with a minor amendment process.

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No public hearing is required for minor amendments to the RGS.
The following section outlines the proposed changes to **Part 4 Implementation**, as suggested by the Regional Growth Strategy Steering Committee. Proposed changes were developed during in person scoping period meetings - through extensive discussions, dialogue and consensus-based decision making. Sections highlighted in blue indicate SLRD Staff proposed changes, identified during best practice review.

**Part 4 Implementation and Monitoring**

The RGS is intended as a strategic guide to future land use development and services in accordance with the Local Government Act. The operational challenges will include managing settlement growth in a manner that is consistent with the RGS smart growth principles while also preventing development sprawl in the rural and resource areas, improving transportation systems in a way that enhances efficiency, safety and sustainability goals, and developing the processes for communication and cooperation between local government, provincial and federal agencies and First Nations in a common commitment to responsible land use planning and management.

**Implementation Process**

The RGS implementation process will involve the following tasks:

a) The development and adoption of Regional Context statements within Official Community Plans, as required by the Local Government Act;

b) Continued development of a RGS implementation program based on the directives contained in the RGS where the SLRD undertakes the required follow-up action;

c) The development and application of specific Implementation Agreements between SLRD and member municipalities, provincial agencies and First Nations, where they can assist in addressing mutual concerns;

d) The preparation of Implementation Guidelines, provided as resources to support collective implementation of the RGS/to assist in the implementation of the RGS;

e) Annual progress reporting to the SLRD Regional Board on implementation of the RGS strategic directives presented in the preceding pages;

f) Annual monitoring of key indicators (Table 3) and Integrated RGS & ISP Goals (Appendix B).

Implementation of the Northern Economic Development Study and completed Economic Development Studies and Agricultural Plans, which may result in amendments to the RGS.
Regional Context Statements

Successful implementation of the RGS depends on cooperation between the SLRD and member municipalities, and the ability of local plans, policies and programs to contribute to the regional planning goals identified in the RGS. Regional Context Statements set out the relationship between the RGS and the member municipality Official Community Plans, and as such, they are the main implementation tool of the RGS.

Section 446 of the Local Government Act establishes the requirement for local governments to prepare Regional Context Statements. Regional Context Statements must identify the relationship between the Official Community Plan and the goals and strategic directions identified in the RGS. If applicable, Regional Context Statements will identify how the Official Community Plan will be made consistent with the RGS over time. Regional Context Statements are accepted by resolution, meaning a majority vote of the SLRD Board is needed. A regional public hearing is not required.

Regional Context Statements have been accepted for all four member municipalities.

Regional Context Statement Amendments

After a Regional Context Statement has been accepted by the SLRD Board there are three instances in which municipalities will be required to submit a revised or new Regional Context Statement:

1. When a new Official Community Plan is being developed.
2. When amendments to an existing Official Community Plan are proposed that are not consistent with the accepted Regional Context Statement.
3. Within five years of the Board’s latest acceptance of the Regional Context Statement.

The process for amending an accepted Regional Context Statement is the same as the process for initial acceptance of the Regional Context Statement, as per Section 448 of the Local Government Act. For Regional Context Statement revisions that trigger an RGS amendment, the SLRD requires these amendments to be processed concurrently, with the RGS amendment adopted prior to the revised Regional Context Statement being accepted.

Consistency with Regional Growth Strategy

In considering acceptance of Regional Context Statements, the SLRD Board’s expectation is that acceptable Regional Context Statements are generally consistent with the RGS’s goals and strategic directions and the parcel-based regional land use designations depicted in the Regional Settlement Plan Map (Map 1; p. 68) and described in the Table 1: Description of Settlement Planning Map (p. 28).
As outlined in section 447 of the *Local Government Act*, a Regional Context Statement and the rest of the Official Community Plan must also be consistent.

**Coordination with Other Governments and Agencies**

The SLRD will work with neighbouring jurisdictions, namely the Fraser Valley Regional District, Cariboo Regional District, Metro Vancouver Regional District, Powell River Regional District, Sunshine Coast Regional District, Strathcona Regional District, and Thompson-Nicola Regional District to facilitate the compatibility of regional growth planning and initiatives.

The SLRD will work with the provincial and federal governments and their agencies on major investments in the regional transportation system, expansion of affordable housing choices, the location of public facilities, and any other initiatives that supports the goals and strategies specified in the Regional Growth Strategy.

The SLRD will work with the Agricultural Land Commission to protect the region’s agricultural land base.

**Recognition of Aboriginal Title**

First Nations communities have asserted Aboriginal Title and rights to traditional territories within the region. The implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy will proceed without prejudice to any Aboriginal Title or rights that may currently exist, or be defined further through treaty or other processes.

**Implementation Agreements**

Implementation Agreements (IA) will provide operational tools for ongoing RGS implementation. These agreements will identify processes and activities to implement certain provisions of the RGS.

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The implementation agreements will provide for the development of collaborative land use planning processes and relationships with a focus on the following implementation objectives:

▲ To resolve specific issues related to the application of the RGS including delineating the final settlement area boundaries where this may be required.

It is proposed to prepare a RGS Implementation Agreement on Growth Management—an MOU between SLRD and the member municipalities that further defines the manner in which long-term settlement growth and development will be encouraged consistent with the RGS. This will focus on preparation of Regional Context Statements to be included within Official Community Plans and the role of the RGS Settlement Planning Map in growth management and definition of regional significance.
• To further coordinate and harmonize local government planning and Crown land and resource management decision making.

It is proposed that a RGS Implementation Agreement on Crown Land – RGS Coordination be prepared—an MOU between SLRD and relevant provincial agencies that outlines the process for coordination of RGS directives with implementation of regional LRMPs and the application of Crown land adjudication processes in the context of RGS.

• To further develop effective dialogue and working relationships with First Nations regarding their economic development aspirations and best practices/sustainable land use strategies.

It is proposed to prepare RGS Implementation Agreements on First Nations Land Use Planning and Development—MOUs between SLRD and specified First Nations that establish an arrangement, without prejudice to ongoing treaty negotiations, for information exchange and coordination of land use planning of Crown land transfers and other land development initiatives in an effort to encourage cooperative approaches to long term development and sustainability.

Implementation Guidelines

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District may periodically prepare guidelines to assist in the implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy, including but not limited to, guidelines for the preparation of and amendments to Regional Context Statements, for amendment of the Regional Growth Strategy, and, for establishing protocols for OCP/Zoning Amendment referrals and First Nations engagement.

Legislative Requirements

Performance Monitoring—Annual Monitoring and Reporting

Section 452 of the Local Government Act requires annual monitoring and reporting of regional growth strategies. Monitoring is the process of collecting information, analyzing trends and gauging progress toward goals. Monitoring of the RGS has two purposes – to measure progress in RGS implementation and to measure substantive improvements in the core conditions or results that are targeted by the RGS. Reporting includes evaluation and is the process of communicating the results of the monitoring.

To facilitate the monitoring and reporting process, Table 3 presents the key indicators that will be used to measure overall implementation of the RGS. Data sources and reporting procedures will be specified in the Annual Monitoring reports. More detailed monitoring may occur using a broader range of quality of life and environmental indicators as shown in Appendix B.

(Table 3 to go here, not at back of Part 4)
To ensure that the Regional Growth Strategy continues to respond to current and future needs, at least once every five years the SLRD will consider whether the Regional Growth Strategy must be reviewed for possible amendment, pursuant to Section 452 of the *Local Government Act*.

RGS Amendments

**Criteria and Process – to go here once finalized**
Part 4 Implementation

The RGS is intended as a strategic guide to future land use development and services in accordance with the Local Government Act. The operational challenges will include managing settlement growth in a manner that is consistent with the RGS smart growth principles while also preventing development sprawl in the rural and resource areas, improving transportation systems in a way that enhances efficiency, safety and sustainability goals, and developing the processes for communication and cooperation between local government, provincial and federal agencies and First Nations in a common commitment to responsible land use planning and management.

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(Table 3 to go here, not at back of Part 4)

Five-year Review
To ensure that the Regional Growth Strategy continues to respond to current and future needs, at least once every five years the SLRD will consider whether the Regional Growth Strategy must be reviewed for possible amendment, pursuant to Section 452 of the Local Government Act.

RGS Amendments

Criteria and Process – to go here once finalized
# RGS Housekeeping Amendments - Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>DETAILS &amp; RATIONALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cover Pages</td>
<td>Update Logo</td>
<td>Action: Remove/replace Update 2014 and use the new SLRD logo. Revise the blurb under Our Mission to be more general or reflect 2015 Review.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Update LGA citations</td>
<td>Action: Update Local Government Act (LGA) citations throughout RGS Bylaw to reflect the new LGA.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2</td>
<td>Population &amp; Employment Projections</td>
<td>Action: Improve the formatting and overall layout of this section.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rationale: Formatting around figures/tables, overall layout of page/information, and language used could be more effective.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 4</td>
<td>Performance Monitoring</td>
<td>Action: Combine Table 3 and 4 and include in this section. Also include a description of what has been done to date and the commitment to annual monitoring and reporting, as per the LGA.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rationale: As Table 4 includes indicators used for performance monitoring, it would be more useful to have this content readily available in this section rather than the appendix. Also, Table 3 and 4 could be combined as the content is very similar. The SLRD is committed to annual monitoring and reporting; this should be mentioned here.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossary of Terms</td>
<td>Definitions</td>
<td>Action/Rationale: Review and revise/update where necessary, the Glossary of Terms to ensure consistency, relevance, and applicability within and across jurisdictions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roles &amp; Responsibilities</td>
<td>Roles and Responsibilities</td>
<td>Action: Review and update where necessary.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rationale: Certain bullets are no longer accurate or are now redundant; there may also be new roles identified through the review that should be listed here.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping</td>
<td>Map 1c (Part 2)</td>
<td>Action: Expand Map 1c out to include WedgeWoods, thereby eliminating need for Map 1c (part2).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rationale: Map 1c (Part 2) was added during the housekeeping amendments to show the WedgeWoods area, but expanding Map 1c out to include this area would enhance ease of use and understanding of context.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping</td>
<td>Map 1d</td>
<td>Action: Update Lilooet Settlement Planning Map to reflect the Lilooet OCP land use designations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rationale: District of Lilooet has updated their OCP; these land use designations should be included in the RGS mapping.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix</td>
<td>Appendix A and B</td>
<td>Action: Remove as Appendix A and B are now redundant/unnecessary.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rationale: Appendix A - Ongoing collaboration and legislative requirements now outlined in Implementation section. Appendix B - covered by Table 3/4 Monitoring Indicators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>