

January 29, 2010

File No.:GL-OCP-2009.3

To: Galiano Island Local Trust Committee
For the meeting of February 8, 2010

From: Robert Kojima
Island Planner
Local Planning Services

CC: David Marlor, RPM
Gary Richardson, Island Planner

Re: Climate Change Mitigation

BACKGROUND:

Amendment of the OCP to include Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets, policies and actions is a legislative requirement and the LTC's top priority on its work program. In October 2009 the LTC received a staff report outlining options for meeting the legislated May 31, 2010 deadline. At that meeting the LTC resolved the following:

Resolution GL-LTC-188-09

It was Moved and Seconded that the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee directs Staff to report back to the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee at a future regular meeting with draft wording for including in the Official Community Plan a Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction target and policy wording stating that specific Greenhouse Gas Emission mitigation policies and actions would be included in the revised Official Community Plan.

CARRIED

The attached draft OCP amendment bylaw (Draft Bylaw No. 206) would amend the OCP to: insert a new section for climate change mitigation and adaptation, provide background wording, set a target, provide objectives and, in place of specific policies and actions, include a note stating that these would be included in an updated OCP (technically this would be an 'action').

STAFF COMMENTS: Bill 27 requires that each LTC set greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets in their official community plan (OCP). Staff previously recommended that the LTC include an aspirational target and subsequently consider specific policies and actions during the on-going OCP review. An aspirational target recognizes the limitations inherent in the current inventories, allows the LTC to establish

a target prior to the May 31, 2010 deadline, and supports overall reductions from all sources and sectors, rather than narrowly focussing on changes that may be the result of specific LTC policy changes.

The following target wording is proposed in the draft bylaw:

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33% by 2020 from 2007 levels. Within the local trust area this reduction will be achieved by actions resulting from individual and community initiatives, the actions of other levels of government, technological changes, and changes to land use policies and regulations.

This supports the provincial target, and emphasizes that the achievement of meaningful reductions will only result from changes from all sectors. While this is consistent with the approach taken by many other local governments, there are other options for target setting. Currently the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee and several Northern LTCs are considering a target of 15% by 2015 and 85% by 2050; however, Salt Spring has included policies and actions in its OCP since 2008, has a community energy plan, and has instituted public transit. Alternate targets could be considered, but the proposed one has the advantage of consistency with the provincial target and includes some recognition that land use changes occur incrementally over time.

The LTC will need to consider the policies and actions that would achieve reductions in GHG emissions as it updates the OCP. The LTC has already identified climate change mitigation as an area for inclusion in the review, and a number of specific policy recommendations and options will be considered by the LTC in amending the overall OCP.

The background section in the draft bylaw is largely consistent with wording proposed in other LTCs' amendments for the Bill 27 requirements. This wording, and the precise formatting and placement of the section within the OCP, may be revised as a result of the overall OCP review. The proposed objectives are consistent with those currently suggested for the other Southern LTCs; again, these could be further amended or refined as part of the overall OCP update, based on the results of community consultation and LTC deliberation on individual, advisory group and stakeholder comment.

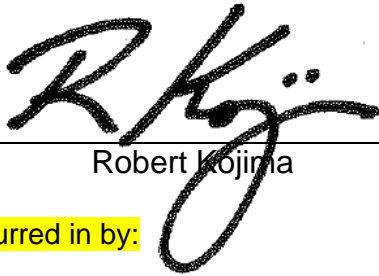
It is important for the LTC to keep in mind that the amendment that will be considered by May 31st is intended to only establish a target and to put key objectives in place. The specific policies and actions will be considered as part of the overall OCP, and implementation will be an on-going factor in future OCP and LUB reviews and updates, and in all LTC decision-making.

In terms of next steps, the LTC should review the draft amending bylaw, make any appropriate changes or revisions, consider first of the bylaw, and direct staff to schedule a public hearing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee give First Reading to Bylaw No. 206, cited as "Galiano Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 108, 1995, Amendment No. 1, 2010."
2. THAT the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to schedule a public hearing for Bylaw No 206.

Prepared and Submitted by:



Robert Kojima

January 29, 2010

Date

Concurred in by:

Regional Planning Manager

Date