

NO: **R201**

COUNCIL DATE: **October 17, 2011**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **October 17, 2011**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development**

FILE: **0450-01**

SUBJECT: **Proposed Type 3 Minor Amendments to the Metro Vancouver
Regional Growth Strategy**

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Instruct the City Clerk to forward to the Metro Vancouver Board a copy of this report and the related Council resolution indicating support for the proposed Type 3 Minor Amendments to the Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy ("RGS") was adopted by the Metro Vancouver Board on July 29, 2011 after ratification by all 22 local governments in the Region. During the ratification process, several local governments expressed their intention to accept the RGS and then propose minor amendments to the RGS immediately following its adoption.

Four local governments have submitted resolutions to the Metro Vancouver Board, requesting a total of eight amendments to the RGS, which fit the criteria for "Type 3 Minor Amendments", as defined in Section 6.3.4 of the RGS. These proposed amendments are:

- City of Coquitlam - amend the land use designation for the Westwood Plateau Golf Course and various existing parks and riparian areas from General Urban to Conservation and Recreation;
- City of Richmond - amend the land use designation for the "Terra Nova lands", the "Garden City lands" and the "Department of National Defence lands" from General Urban to Conservation and Recreation;
- District of West Vancouver - amend portions of the "Old Growth Conservancy" from General Urban to Conservation and Recreation, and extend the Special Study Area to include all lands above the 1,200 foot elevation that are currently designated General Urban; and
- Tsawwassen First Nation - amend the population and employment projection figures to reflect updated growth projections.

The Metro Vancouver Board initiated the amendment process related to these proposals on September 23, 2011 and gave First and Second Readings to a related RGS amendment bylaw. Local governments have 30 days from this date to respond with comments in the form of a Council resolution. Following the close of this notification period and subject to comments, the Metro Vancouver Board will consider Third Reading and Final Adoption of the bylaw, which, if adopted, will incorporate these amendments into the RGS.

Type 3 Minor Amendments to the RGS require a weighted majority vote (50%+1) by the Metro Vancouver Board but do not require a regional public hearing.

DISCUSSION

The proposed Type 3 Minor Amendments being considered do not directly affect the City of Surrey and generally reinforce the goals and strategies of the RGS. Metro Vancouver staff and the Planning Technical Advisory Committee ("TAC"), which includes Surrey staff representation, support the proposed amendments as consistent with the goals and strategies of the RGS. A report by Metro Vancouver staff to the Regional Planning Committee, containing Metro Vancouver staff and TAC comments on specific amendments is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

CONCLUSION

The recently adopted Metro Vancouver RGS includes provision for amendments, including Type 3 Minor Amendments. During the RGS ratification process, several local governments expressed their intention to accept the RGS and, subsequently, to propose minor amendments following its adoption. A total of eight such amendments from four local governments are being considered by the Metro Vancouver Board. Local governments have 30 days from September 23, 2011 to submit comments on these amendments in the form of a Council resolution. The proposed amendments are consistent with the goals and objectives of the RGS and do not affect the City of Surrey.

Based on the above discussion it is recommended that Council instruct the City Clerk to forward to the Metro Vancouver Board a copy of this report and the related Council resolution indicating support for the proposed Type 3 Minor Amendments to the Metro Vancouver RGS.

Original signed by
Jean Lamontagne
General Manager,
Planning and Development

DL:saw

Attachment:

Appendix I Metro Vancouver Report – Request for Type 3 Amendments to the RGS (without attachments)