

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT



**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** B. Newell, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** April 1, 2021

**RE:** Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Electoral Area ‘D’, ‘E’, ‘F’, & ‘I’  
Regulation of “Solar Energy Systems”

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### **Administrative Recommendation:**

**THAT Amendment Bylaw No. 2911, 2021, Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen Solar Energy Systems Regulation Zoning Amendment Bylaw be read a first and second time and proceed to public hearing;**

**AND THAT the holding of a public hearing be scheduled for the Regional District Board meeting of May 6, 2021;**

**AND THAT staff give notice of the public hearing in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act*.**

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### **Purpose:**

The purpose of Amendment Bylaw No. 2911 is to introduce zoning regulation governing the use and placement of solar energy systems in the Okanagan Electoral Area zoning bylaws ‘D’, ‘E’, ‘F’ & ‘I’.

### **Background:**

At its meeting of October 1, 2020, the P&D Committee resolved that Amendment Bylaw No. 2911 (Solar Energy Systems Amendment Bylaw) be initiated and applied only to Electoral Areas ‘D’, ‘E’, ‘F’, & ‘I’.

Community consultation, including referral to external agencies and consideration by the applicable Electoral Area Advisory Planning Commissions (APCs) occurred between November of 2020 and March of 2021.

An overview of this consultation process, including a summary of received feedback was considered by the Planning and Development (P&D) Committee of the Board at its meeting of March 18, 2021. The Committee subsequently resolved that Amendment Bylaw No. 2911 be brought forward for consideration of first reading, subject to the following changes being implemented:

- the minimum parcel size for a ground mounted system be reduced from 1.0 ha to 0.25 ha; and
- ground mounted solar systems less than 1.2 metres in height on parcels less than 0.25 ha in area be exempted from parcel line setback requirements.

Approval from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) is required prior to adoption as the proposed textual amendments will affect lands within 800 metres of a controlled access highway (i.e. Highway 97 & 3).

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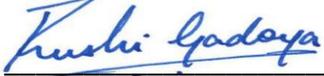
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**Analysis:**

Amendment Bylaw No. 2911 contains regulations to govern the placement of Solar Energy Systems within the Okanagan Electoral Areas “D”, “E”, “F”, & “I” in accordance with the direction previously provided by the Board at committee.

**Alternatives:**

1. THAT Amendment Bylaw No. 2911, 2021, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Solar Energy Systems Regulations Zoning Amendment Bylaw be deferred; or
2. THAT Amendment Bylaw No. 2911, 2021, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Solar Energy Systems Regulations Zoning Amendment Bylaw be denied.

**Respectfully submitted:**

Rushi Gadoya, Planning Technician

**Endorsed By:**

C. Garrish, Planning Manager