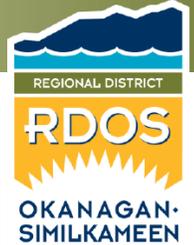


ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT



TO: Board of Directors
FROM: J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer
DATE: February 19, 2026
RE: Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw Review-Consultation Plan

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw Review Consultation Plan be adopted and considered to be appropriate consultation for the purpose of Section 434 of the *Local Government Act*.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide options to the Board in relation to the statutory requirement for a consultation plan in support of the ongoing Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Bylaw Review.

Strategic Priorities: Operational

Background & Analysis:

At its meeting of June 16, 2022, the Regional Board considered a consultation plan in support of the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw Review, and resolved to adopt the plan and consider it appropriate consultation for the purpose of Section 434 of the *Local Government Act*.

The 2022 consultation plan prescribed a course for implementation that was undertaken and completed in 2022.

At its meeting of January 19, 2026, the Committee of the Whole held a workshop on the draft South Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 2770.02, 2026, and resolved to initiate the bylaw.

This amendment proposes to replace the “Growth Management Map” with new classifications, revise objectives and policies related to “Housing and Development”, “Energy Emissions and Climate Change” and “Population and Demographics”, and introduce a new “Village Settlement Area” designation to apply to Gallagher Lake, Kaleden and Naramata.

Under Section 434 (Consultation during development of regional growth strategy), “a consultation plan must be adopted 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.*

In adopting a Consultation Plan, the Board must consider whether the plan should include the holding of a public hearing to provide an opportunity for persons, organizations and authorities to make their views known before the regional growth strategy is submitted for acceptance to the member municipalities.

Analysis:

To meet the requirements of Section 434 of the Act, a Consultation Plan has been prepared that outlines the scope of work, applicable stakeholders and an approach to public consultation that is consistent with the Regional District’s established policies and best practices.

Due to the time elapsed since consultation was completed in 2022, and proposed changes in relation to Naramata and Kaleden, a new consultation plan is seen to be required.

While the proposed consultation plan is based substantially on the consultation plan adopted by the Regional Board in 2022, proposed changes reflect that the use of a consultant is not proposed for this phase and that the scope of the changes is seen to warrant a simplified approach to public consultation (i.e. one (1) online public information meeting).

If approved, the plan prescribes a course for implementation that is scheduled to be completed in 2026 that may be summarised as follows:

- information to be shared through Voyent Alert! notification system;
- documents, the draft Bylaw, presentations and a feedback form will be available on the project webpage on the RDOS website;
- notices will be sent out to all affected property owners in partnership with the municipalities;
- one (1) public information meeting to be held online via Webex will include a presentation from RDOS Staff and opportunity for dialogue with participants (Q&A);
- physical copies of the materials will be available at the RDOS office; and
- referrals will be sent to affected stakeholders and Indigenous Communities most likely affected by the policies identified for review.

A public hearing prior to formal submission of the RGS Amendment Bylaw to the member municipalities for their acceptance is not required, but may be considered by the Regional Board.

Financial Implications:

Depending on the scope of public and agency engagement desired for this project, the Board may also wish to consider using the services of a planning consultant to assist with public engagement activities (NOTE: funds are available within the Regional Growth Strategy budget to address this).

Communication Strategy:

The draft consultation plan included at Attachment No. 1 has been prepared in accordance with the *RDOS Board Communications Policy* and the *Local Government Act*.

Specifically, Section 434 of the Act, which requires that the Board “must adopt [emphasis added] a consultation plan that, in the opinion of the board, provides opportunities for early and ongoing consultation with, at a minimum, the following”:

-
- its citizens;
 - affected local governments;
 - First Nations;
 - boards of education, greater boards and improvement district boards;
 - the provincial and federal governments and their agencies.

Alternatives:

1. THAT the Consultation Plan for the South Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 2770.02, 2026, be revised as follows:
 - a. *TBD*
2. THAT the consultation plan for the South Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 2770.02, 2026, not be endorsed.

Will a PowerPoint presentation be presented at the meeting? Yes

Respectfully submitted:

"Ben Kent"

B. Kent
Planner II

Endorsed By:



C. Garrish
Senior Manager of Planning

Endorsed By:

Allen Fillion

A. Fillion
Managing Director, Dev. & Infrastructure

Attachments: No. 1 – Regional Growth Strategy Review Consultation Plan