

SUBMISSION TO THE CRD REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LIMA PLAN OF ACTION FOR BIOSPHERES AND THE SDGS

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On behalf of:

The Global Compliance Research Project

RGS QUOTES ARE PREFACED WITH ONE * WHILE MY COMMENTS ARE PREFACED by two ** and are in green and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in blue

**A vision of cooperative stewardship that integrates the contributions of citizens, landowners, businesses, communities, and all levels of government. This is neither a park plan nor a policy document. Rather, it is a vision of sustaining the essential nature of our region, of continually creating and protecting a livable and healthy community – and passing on that legacy to future generations. (RGS p47)*

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From 2010, with the well-researched work of the U Vic Environmental Law Centre (see links in the appendix), to a proposal in the 2014 municipal election, to the Salish Sea Biosphere submissions, to the Regional Sustainability Strategy and to the CRD there have been proposals to work on establishing a biosphere Reserve in the CRD.

We support the vision, the objectives, and the principles of the RGS including the following:

(i) sustainability - actions to meet our needs today do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs and ensure the ongoing healthy functioning of the natural systems that sustain life

(ii) Appropriateness: actions are appropriate to the aspirations and local conditions of the Capital Region, and do not simply reflect the uncritical application of ideas developed for other places and situations. Continuity: the strategy will build on work that has already been undertaken by the Capital Regional District and its member municipalities and will consider the thoughts and ideas contributed by individual residents and community associations.

(iii) Cooperation, Collaboration and Coordination: The Capital Regional District, local municipalities, provincial ministries and agencies and regional residents will work together to develop and implement the strategy. First Nations, the Islands Trust, and the Cowichan Valley

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(i) Regional District are neighbouring governments and will be invited to participate in the Regional Growth Strategy;

After doing a content analysis of RGS I believe more than ever that the RGS complements not only the UNESCO Lima Plan of Action for Biosphere Reserves but also the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are an integral component of biosphere reserves.

This submission will be in two parts: the first part will be information about the Lima biosphere requirements that are complementary to the Regional Growth Strategy and the second part will be an attempt to place elements from RGS into the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

1. THE BIOSPHERE REQUIREMENTS THAT ARE COMPLEMENTARY TO THE REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve serves to promote and demonstrate balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere, integrating especially the role of traditional knowledge in ecosystem management. biosphere reserves foster economic and human development which is sociocultural and ecologically sustainable". (Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserve, 1974)

The Lima Action Plan for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025) has the following vision:

"Our vision is a world where people are conscious of their common future and interaction with our planet and act collectively and responsibly to build thriving societies in harmony within the biosphere. The MAB programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), serve this vision within and outside biosphere reserves. Our vision is a world where people are conscious of their common future and interaction with our planet and act collectively and responsibly to build thriving societies in harmony within the biosphere. The MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) serve this vision within and outside biosphere reserves. Our mission for the period 2015-2025 is to: develop and strengthen models for sustainable development in the to ensure that its world network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR);

- communicate the experiences and lessons learned, facilitating the global diffusion and application of these models;
- support evaluation and high-quality management, strategies and policies for sustainable development and planning, as well as be accountable and resilient institutions;

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- help member states and stakeholders to urgently meet the sustainable development goals through experiences from the WNBR; in particular, through exploring and testing policies, technologies and innovations for the sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources and mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- To mobilize the potential of biosphere reserves, to contribute to the implementation of the SDGS (including the SDG13), to 'take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact' and the SDG 15, to 'protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss' while recognizing the inter-linkages of the strategy and the Lima Action Plan with the targets of other goals
- To concentrate its support to member states and stakeholders in conserving biodiversity: restoring and enhancing ecosystem services and fostering the sustainable use of natural resources; contributing to sustainable, healthy, and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere, facilitating biodiversity and sustainability science, education for sustainable development and capacity building and supporting mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change. The MAB programme will harness lessons learned through sustainability science and education and use modern, open and transparent ways to communicate and share information.
- To ensure that its world network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) consists of effectively functioning models for sustainable development by improving governance, collaboration and networking within the MAB and WMBR; by developing effective external partnerships to ensure long-term viability and by implementing an effective periodic review process so that all members of the network adhere to its standards
- MAB Strategy 2015-2025 The MAB Strategy foresees that, in the coming 10 years, the MAB Programme will concentrate its support to Member States and stakeholders in conserving biodiversity; restoring and enhancing ecosystem services, and fostering the sustainable use of natural resources thereby contributing to sustainable, healthy and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere; facilitating biodiversity and sustainability science, education for sustainable development and capacity building and supporting mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change:

- To establish alliances at local, regional and international levels for biodiversity conservation and benefits to local people; taking into consideration the rights of indigenous people
- To ensure processes for selecting, designing, planning and nominating B.R.'s are open and participatory; involving all concerned stakeholders; taking into account local and indigenous practices, traditions and cultures as well as being based on sound science.
- To help Member States and stakeholders to urgently meet the Sustainable Development Goals through experiences from the WNBR; in particular, through exploring and testing policies, technologies and innovations for the sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources and mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- To use B.R.'s as priority sites /observatories for climate change research, monitoring, mitigation and adaptation and as observatories for ecosystem-based climate change action

2, ELEMENTS WITHIN THE REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY PLACED WITHIN THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WHICH ARE INTENDED TO BE IMPLEMENTED NATIONALLY AND REGIONALLY

THE RGS QUOTES ARE PREFACED WITH ONE * WHILE MY COMMENTS ARE PREFACED by two ** and are in green

SDG goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

* Finding ways to reduce poverty in the Capital Region. (RGS p27 RGS)

While there are references in the R.G.'s to programmes to address poverty the ways still have to be found before finalizing the R.G.'s

Affordability Strategy has been developed to support all residents of the Capital Region – especially low and moderate-income households, the elderly, youth, those with special health and other needs, and the homeless – to have reasonable choice of housing by type, tenure, price and location. Five approaches to housing affordability underlie the Regional Housing Affordability

Strategy (p22 RGS) * Improve Housing Affordability

- Increase the supply of a more affordable housing.

- Reduce the number of people in core housing need.

- Reduce the number of people who are homeless. (p34 RGS)

****COMMENT**

One way could be a rights-based approach drawing on the legally binding 1966 International Covenant on economic, Social and Cultural Rights which should have been part of the Charter of Rights and freedoms.

“The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right; recognizing, to this effect, the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent.

2. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take, individually and through international co-operation, the measures, including specific programmes, which are needed: (Article 11 1972

*Plan a review of long-term strategic resource needs in the Capital Region – including food, (paying specific attention to local food production), energy, water, and aggregate materials. Project will investigate long term demand, security of supply, potential impacts of factors such as long-term climate change and fossil fuel depletion and also make policy and program recommendations to ensure that future needs are successfully anticipated and met. (p17 RGS)

*Food and agriculture are part of a food system which includes planting, irrigation, harvesting, processing, distribution, preparation and marketing and consumption, in addition to food waste management and soil betterment. A viable and resilient local food and agriculture system is important to the Capital Regional District’s health, sustainability, security and visual /cultural identity. Changes in climate, energy costs and water availability will impact agricultural production and will draw greater attention to regional food system resiliency. The widespread impact of food and agriculture and the nature of the challenges likely to be faced in coming years, make food and agriculture a matter of regional interest. Challenges include loss of farmland, lack of farm profitability and financial sustainability, increasing average age of farmers, increasing food prices, limited (72 hour) supply of fresh food in an emergency, food wastage, need to revitalize indigenous food systems, lack of knowledge of how to grow and prepare healthy food, increasing rates of food insecure people and increasing rates of diet-related chronic disease. Regional alignment will strengthen the food and agricultural sector.

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The *Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy recommends actions to create a viable, healthy and resilient food system. Regional Growth Strategy policies are intended to work in tandem with the Regional Food and Agriculture Strategy to guide future decisions. Achieving a healthy, viable and resilient local food and agriculture system will require adherence to the following related principles:

- I. Support First Nations food interests and rights;
- II. Protect and enhance the region’s food and farmlands;
- III. Avoid urban/agricultural land use conflict; mitigate where avoidance is not possible;
- IV. Enhance access to nutritious, safe and culturally-appropriate food;
- V. Expand food system economic opportunities;
- VI. Encourage food system education and agri-tourism; and

VII. Foster resiliency in the face of an unpredictable climate, increased pest resistance, and declining, increasingly expensive, water and energy sup (p28 RGS)

*Resource Lands Policy Area: Includes lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), the Private Managed Forest Lands and Crown Forest Lands. The Regional Growth Strategy sets out in policy 5.1(4) the continued long-term use of these lands as renewable resource working landscapes.

*Rural Residential Land Use Policy Area as well as the Growth Policy Area), and policies that support farming within the Agricultural Land Reserve (P27 RGS)

*Food Systems 6.1 Foster a Resilient Food and Agriculture System • Increase the amount of land in crop production by 5000 ha by 2038 (p34 RGS)

**COMMENT

*At the time of writing, the Food and Agriculture Strategy (P.33 RGS); This Seems to indicate that it is still under development.

Again, there is a precedent for a rights-based approach:

The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take, individually and through international co-operation, the measures, including specific programmes which are needed: (Article 11 international Covenant on economic, Social and Cultural Rights)

In 1999 the UBCM resolved to petition the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of British Columbia and their respective Ministers' of Agriculture to take immediate and decisive action to halt the growing monopolization of our food production industry and the introduction of "terminator seed".

"Organic crops' is only mentioned in the section on Metchosin; whereas other municipalities grow organic food. Also, many of the Municipalities have passed GE-free resolutions.

The ALR should be expanded to include the proposed 5000 ha increase in crop land
SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

*. Identify locations within the Growth Policy Area that support the well-being of residents consistent with the Complete Communities Criteria outlined in Objective 3.1 and adopt policies to direct growth to these locations (P.19 RGS)

* Environmental integrity is paramount to ensuring social well-being and economic vibrancy. Saanich remains a series of community focused neighbourhoods within an urban containment boundary that clearly separates the urban area from the rural portion of the municipality. This growth framework is based on principles of sustainability and livability. Rural Saanich forms part of the peninsula farm lands. Population increases are managed within the context of the local area planning process, where land use, density and development policies direct growth to “Centres” and “Villages” to build complete communities that encourage diversity of lifestyle, housing, economic and cultural opportunities (P.37 RGS)

*In 2038, Capital Regional District residents enjoy a healthy and rewarding quality of life. We have a vital economy, livable communities and steward our environment and natural resources with care. Our choices reflect our commitment to collective action on climate change. (p1 RGS)

*In some cases, preserved green space and natural areas including forests, wetlands, and stream corridors have been described as a “green infrastructure” essential to the vitality of healthy human communities. (p16 RGS)

*A regional growth strategy is a framework developed by municipalities and the regional district in partnership; for identifying social, economic and environmental objectives. It’s purpose, under Part 13 of the Local Government Act, 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.” A regional growth strategy expresses how communities will work together to enhance regional quality of life and social well being. As of 2008, regional growth strategies must also include policies, actions and targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. (p2 RGS)

*Complete communities, are safe, socially diverse, openly accessible, livable and attract economic investment, thereby enhancing social sustainability as well as health and well-being. (p20 RGS)

* Decision-making should give first priority to options that maintain ecosystem and population health and support the ongoing ability of natural systems to sustain life. (p7 RGS)

* lack of knowledge of how to grow and prepare healthy food, increasing rates of food insecure people and increasing rates of diet-related chronic disease. Regional alignment will strengthen the food and agricultural sector. (p28 RGS)

*This is neither a park plan nor a policy document but rather, a vision of cooperative stewardship that integrates the contributions of citizens, landowners, businesses, communities, and all levels of government. It is a vision of sustaining the essential nature of our region; of continually creating and protecting a livable and healthy community – and passing on that legacy to future generations. (p.42 RGS)

*Identify locations within the Growth Policy Area that support the well being of residents consistent with the Complete Communities Criteria outlined in Objective 3.1 and adopt policies to direct growth to these locations. (p21 RGS)

*Affordability Strategy has been developed to support all residents of the Capital Region – especially low and moderate-income households, the elderly, youth and those with special health and other needs, (p 22 RGS)

**COMMENT

There is no mention of health care or health promotion

There could be added the call for objectives such as:

- prevent any intrusion into Medicare that would lead to privatization or a two-tier health care system

- recognize the interconnection of poverty and health and to address poverty related or environmentally induced health problems

- prevent the practice of exploitation through the location of toxic, hazardous waste disposal on the lands and maritime areas inhabited or used by the poor, disenfranchised, or First Nations

- initiate an effective program of public education about the health benefits of uncontaminated food, water and air

- encourage health promotion through life style and research that factors in all the social determinants of health problems

It is important to recognize the social and environmental determinants of health- such as poverty and environmentally induced health problems, local strategies for improving the quality of life and the environment, integrating decisions on land use and land management and promoting employment generation that is environmentally sound and protective of human health. (b) Strengthening urban data systems (7.16 d. UNCED 1992)

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SDG Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

*Identify, protect, enhance and restore healthy ecosystems using tools that may consist of policies, regulations, development permit area guidelines, incentives, initiatives and education and outreach delivered at the local level consistent with the principles set out in Objective 2.1. RGS

*Complete Community - A Multi-use, urban community that contains, within its boundaries, the full range of facilities and activities necessary to meet typical household needs for employment, shopping, personal services, recreation, housing, education and other goods and services. Complete communities typically are defined by what they are not, that is, single-use residential areas that serve a largely dormitory function to a larger centre with few local opportunities to meet the broad range of household needs described. (p 43 RGS)

*Pursuing growth in New Economy sectors such as skilled services, specialized tourism, advanced technology, high-value and specialized agriculture and forestry, film /video making and the arts, higher education, health, light manufacturing and home-based business;

* Encourage food system education (p8 RGS)

* Support local governments and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area through regional capacity building, education and projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. (p32RGS)

****COMMENT**

Promote environmental education in elementary and secondary schools

SDG Goal #6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

*At the time of writing the Regional Growth Strategy, a planning process is underway to identify waste-water management strategies for the Core Area. Private septic fields treat liquid waste for residents in rural areas (P18. RGS)

*Capital Green Lands Policy Area: Includes Ecological Reserves, Capital Regional District Water lands, and Parks. The Regional Growth Strategy sets out in policy 2.1(1) the continued long-term use of these lands for these purposes (p.10 RGS)

*The Regional Growth Strategy does this by designating for long term protection as Capital Green Lands and Renewable Resource Lands, those natural assets including parks, ecological reserves, forests, farmland and watersheds that make up the region's green infrastructure and contribute to the regional economy. The designation of a Growth Policy Area reinforces the protection of Capital Green Lands, Renewable Resource Lands and Rural /Rural Residential Policy Areas and has the further benefit of supporting the long-term effort to keep urban settlement compact. (p15 RGS)

*The Capital Region has a rich inheritance of natural lands and waters of great beauty and biophysical diversity. Residents of the Capital Region enjoy a healthy environment where environmental quality is improved and the inheritance of renewable and non-renewable natural resources is carefully stewarded. Many of the region's terrestrial, fresh water and marine environments – its green and blue spaces – are of provincial, national and international significance.

2 The system of green and blue spaces that make up the region's natural environment spans a diverse range of ecosystems and land uses and requires integrated, collaborative and co-operative management of land and water resources (p 16 RGS)

*The Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy was a foundational document for the development of the 2003 Regional Growth Strategy. The Strategy has been superseded by subsequent planning initiatives such as the Regional Parks Strategic Plan, the Integrated Watershed Management Program Plan, the Regional Parks Land Acquisition Strategy and park management plans for the Sooke Hills Wilderness and Sea to Sea Regional Parks. (P16 RGS)

*Protect the ecological integrity of watersheds and marine areas through collaborative initiatives consistent with the principles set out in Objective 2.1. (p 17 RGS)

*Manage Regional Infrastructure Services Sustainably Regional servicing infrastructure includes drinking water, liquid and solid waste. These services must be efficiently and cost-effectively managed for the long-term in order to accommodate the anticipated population increase. The Sooke reservoir, managed and operated by the CRD, is the drinking water supply for the Capital Region. The CRD provides treated bulk water to multiple distribution systems around the region. The distribution systems differ by municipality and require ongoing cooperation for the planning and management of the service. Private wells and community water systems supply water to many residents in rural areas. (p.18 RGS) 11

*The Saanich Peninsula Waste-water Treatment Plant provides secondary waste-water treatment to residents in the Saanich Peninsula. At the time of writing, the Regional Growth Strategy-a planning process is underway to identify waste-water management strategies for the Core Area. Private septic fields treat liquid waste for residents in rural areas. (p.18 RGS)

*Infrastructure services may be impacted not only by an increased demand for the service as the population grows but also by the form, pattern and location of new development. Servicing new development with limited or low density, which adds fewer new users per unit length of water or sewer pipe than the system average, would generally be more expensive than in denser areas. The costs of operating and maintaining this infrastructure over its life-cycle, require consideration beyond the one-time capital investment. Keeping urban settlement compact will help create the densities needed to create efficient servicing infrastructure. It is also necessary to acknowledge and plan for the effects of a changing climate on regional infrastructure. (p.18 RGS)

*Policies 1. Manage infrastructure services, including water supply and distribution, in accordance with the principles set out in Objectives 2.1 (Protect, Conserve and Manage Ecosystem Health) and 2.2 (Manage Regional Infrastructure Services Sustainably). 2. Provide new water system services (public or private) only to areas where: a. For a municipality, the areas to be serviced are shown on RGS Map 3 as either Growth Policy Area or Rural/Rural Residential Policy Area and the area to be serviced is consistent with OCP servicing provisions and an accepted Regional Context Statement identifies the population to be serviced and how growth in water demand will be addressed. b. For the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, the areas to be serviced are shown on RGS Map 3 as either Growth Policy Area or Rural/Rural Residential Policy Area and the area to be serviced is consistent with OCP servicing provisions and the applicable OCP identifies the population to be serviced and how growth in water demand will be addressed. Where new water system services are provided to the community of Shirley-Jordan River, areas to be serviced may also include lands shown on RGS Map 3 as Renewable Resource Lands Policy Area and designated in the OCP as Coastal Uplands subject to limiting development potential of serviced parcels to a density of one parcel per four hectares, as set out in the OCP. (19 RGS)

*Provide new water system services (public or private) only to areas where: a. For a municipality, the areas to be serviced are shown on RGS Map 3 as either Growth Policy Area or Rural /Rural Residential Policy Area and the area to be serviced is consistent with OCP servicing provisions and an accepted Regional Context Statement identifies the population to be serviced and how growth in water demand will be addressed. b. For the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, the 12 areas to be serviced are shown on RGS Map 3 as either Growth Policy Area or Rural/Rural Residential Policy Area and the area to be serviced is consistent with OCP servicing provisions and the applicable OCP identifies the population to be serviced and how growth in water demand will be addressed. Where new water system services are provided to the community of Shirley-Jordan River, areas to be serviced may also include lands shown on RGS Map 3 as Renewable Resource Lands Policy Area and designated in the OCP as Coastal Uplands subject to limiting development potential of serviced parcels to a density of one parcel per four hectares, as set out in the OCP. (p19 RGS)

*Notwithstanding, policy 2.2(2), the CRD may extend water service if required to address a pressing public health, public safety or environmental issue relating to existing units or to service agriculture. (p19 RGS)

*Where water service is extended to service agriculture in Policy 2.2(3), water service may be provided to residential units along the serviced line on lands within the Agricultural Land

Reserve as long as an OCP is in place that prevents further subdivision or an increase in permitted residential density. 5. Do not further extend urban sewer services outside the Growth Policy Area Boundary depicted on Map 3. 6. Notwithstanding policies 2.2(2) and 2.2(4), evaluate requests for services from jurisdictions outside of Capital Regional District membership with a view towards supporting mutually beneficial relationships and fostering development consistent with all RGS objectives and policies. (p19 RGS)

*Finding ways to ensure the long term, affordable supply of strategic economic resources such as water, aggregate and energy;(P26 RGS)

*Changes in climate, energy costs and water availability will impact agricultural production and will draw greater attention to regional food system resiliency. (P28 RGS)

* Foster resiliency in the face of an unpredictable climate, increased pest resistance, and declining, increasingly expensive water and energy supplies. (P28 RGS)

*Integrated Watershed Management Plan • Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan. (P.33 RGS) 13

*Targets by 2038 Reduce contaminants to fresh and marine water bodies. (p34 RGS)

****COMMENT**

The right to water should not be used to justify increased urbanization of rural lands.

SDG Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

* Finding ways to ensure the long term, affordable supply of strategic economic resources such as water, aggregate and energy; (p17 RGS)

*Plan a review of long-term strategic resource needs in the Capital Region – including food, (paying specific attention to local food production), energy, water, and aggregate materials. This project will investigate long term demand, security of supply, potential impacts of factors such as long-term climate change and fossil fuel depletion, and make policy and program recommendations to ensure that future needs are successfully anticipated and met. (p17 RGS)

*Increase the amount of land in crop production by 5000 ha. By 2038 (p34 RGS)

*Changes in climate, energy costs and water availability will impact agricultural production and will draw greater attention to regional food system resiliency (p28 RGS)

* Significantly Reduce Community-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions the Regional Growth Strategy supports the reduction of community-based greenhouse gas emissions to address the effects of a changing climate. In the Capital Region, community greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation system, the heating, cooling and energizing of buildings, waste, energy production, the production of goods and agriculture.³ (p28 RGS)

*The Capital Regional District and local governments have long-standing commitments to make decisions, target investments and build capacity for reducing the use of fossil fuels and expanding the clean energy economy. Further, the Regional Growth Strategy's aim to keep urban settlement compact, protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health, build safe and complete 14

communities, increase transportation choice, strengthen the regional economy and foster a resilient regional food and agriculture system will support the low-carbon built form that is the foundation for reducing energy demand. (p30 RGS)

*Principles I. Create a low-carbon built form to reduce energy demand; II. Increase energy efficiency and recovery from retrofits and new development; III. Promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable, clean energy to reduce reliance on fossil fuels; and IV. Protect the carbon sequestration value of natural systems, including forested lands and wetlands. (p30 RGS)

*Policies 1. Prioritize investment that will provide for a low-carbon built form that supports efficient energy use, the provision of clean and renewable district energy, active transportation modes, transit service, and low /zero emissions vehicles. 2. Design, manage, fund and operate programs, services and infrastructure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in keeping with the principles outlined in Objective 7.1. 3. Strategically acquire protected areas that contribute to climate change mitigation. (p31 RGS)

* Plan for energy supply and promote efficient use, conservation and alternative sources of energy; and, (p.40 RGS)

*Infrastructure The physical capital and associated services considered basic and necessary to the functioning of the built environment. These include such things as: sanitary sewers, treatment plants, and water pipelines and distribution/collection systems; roads, signals, sidewalks and other components of the transportation system including transit vehicles, ferries and airports; solid waste management facilities including transfer stations and landfills; and, energy supply and distribution systems including hydroelectric and natural gas transmission and distribution systems (p.44 RGS)

*greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation system, the heating, cooling and energizing of buildings, waste, energy production, the production of goods and agriculture.

*The Capital Regional District and local governments have long-standing commitments to make decisions, target investments and build capacity for reducing the use of fossil fuels and expanding the clean energy economy. Further, the Regional Growth Strategy's aim to keep urban settlement compact, protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health, build safe and complete communities, increase transportation choice, strengthen the regional economy 15

and foster a resilient regional food and agriculture system will support the low-carbon built form that is the foundation for reducing energy demand. (p. 30 RGS)

****COMMENT**

Divesting in fossil fuels, phasing out fossil fuels and promoting solar wind, wave, and geothermal

NOTE: The UBCM endorsed the motion to the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA)

B77 - Empowering Local Governments to Pursue Socially Responsible Investing

Whereas many local governments have committed to climate action and socially responsible investing;

And whereas a central strategy for climate change mitigation is to reduce emissions into the atmosphere relating to the consumption of fossil fuels which includes divesting from fossil fuels and reinvesting in renewable sources of energy, employment and revenue;

And whereas local governments are empowered in provincial legislation to invest through the Municipal Finance Authority and the current investment portfolio offered by the Municipal Finance Authority does not include a fossil-fuel free investment option:

Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM call on the Municipal Finance Authority to create a fossil-fuel-free investment fund to provide local governments with an investment choice that aligns with priorities for climate action and social responsibility.

At Habitat I in Vancouver, in 1976, socially equitable and environmentally sound energy such as wind and solar were displayed all along Jericho Beach. 2016 is the fortieth anniversary of Habitat 1.

(ii) Identifying and developing new sources of energy and promoting more efficient use of energy resources, for example through innovative approaches in design and management and although financial and other incentives for energy conservation and through disincentives for wasteful consumption (Recommendation C. 5 Habitat I, 1976)

SDG Goal 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

*Approaches I. Establish a strong mix of uses focused around Victoria's downtown core area as the primary regional employment, business and cultural centre; II. Focus employment and population growth primarily in complete communities, located in areas that meet criteria described in Objective 3.1, that will encourage the development of walkable, bikeable and transit-focused areas 16

with a dense mix of housing, employment, services and public open space;(p9 RGS)

*Growth Policy Area: Includes residential, general employment, commercial and industrial lands, as well as other associated land uses. The Growth Policy Area is intended to accommodate 95% of the region's new dwelling units, and is where major new transportation infrastructure investments will be directed. The Regional Growth Strategy restricts extension of urban-standard sanitary sewerage services beyond the Growth Policy Area Boundary as set out under policy 2.2(5). (p10 RGS)

*Within the Growth Policy Area, employment and population growth is to be directed to areas that meet criteria set out in Objective 3.1, for complete communities. Complete communities are intended to accommodate housing, jobs and services at densities that will support transit. Focusing growth in complete communities is central to reducing community-based greenhouse gas emissions, reducing development pressure on rural and resource lands and keeping infrastructure affordable. (p10 RGS)

*Rural/Rural Residential Policy Area: Includes lands to be used for rural and rural residential purposes and the Victoria International Airport (with development potential as established through approved Memorandum of Understanding). The Regional Growth Strategy sets out in policy 1.1(1) and 1.2(1) that Rural / Rural Residential lands are not intended to become future urban areas requiring extensive services. Residential uses are of a form, density and character that support rural working landscapes. Commercial uses are local serving and such uses and other employment opportunities result in minimal impact to the surrounding community and to the environment. Low-impact tourism uses complement rural character. The policy area also includes lands with ecosystem benefits to be identified and protected through means such as development permit areas, conservation covenants, or acquisition and designation as a park or ecological reserve. (p10 RGS)

*Maintain Victoria as the primary regional employment, business and cultural centre. (14 RGS)

*Enhance or develop major employment and population centres in areas that meet criteria, as set out in Objective 3.1, for complete communities. (p14 RGS)

*The characteristics of a complete community are highly dependent on context. In some locations, the addition of employment opportunities or commercial 17

services may be required while in others it may be the provision of a greater mix of housing types. In still others, the development of a park, footpaths or cycling facilities may help create a complete community. The criteria for a complete community within the Growth Policy Area are listed below. Outside the Growth Policy Area, the notion of what makes a community complete may be yet different and the criteria set out for complete communities does not apply to the Rural / Rural Residential Policy Area. (P20 RGS)

*Finding ways to enhance established employment centres; (27 RGS)

*Fundamental to these aspirations is a commitment to work toward regional sustainability. Simply defined, this means that actions taken to meet needs today do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs, ensure the ongoing health of the natural processes that sustain life, and support the social and economic arrangements that create prosperity and well-being (p.1 RGS)

****COMMENT**

Institute a fair and just transition from work that is not harmful to human health and the environment or to socially equitable, environmental and sound sustainable employment

Ensure equal pay for work of equal value

Fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind; in particular, women being guaranteed conditions of work not inferior to those enjoyed by men with equal pay for equal work; (Art 7 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966)

Respect the International Labour Conventions

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

* Paramount to success is coordinated and consistent decision-making that focuses on how people, land use, transportation, infrastructure and technology can mitigate and adapt to a changing climate (p 6 RGS) 18

* Growth Policy Area: Includes residential, general employment, commercial and industrial lands as well as other associated land uses. The Growth Policy Area is intended to accommodate 95% of the region's new dwelling units and is where major new transportation infrastructure investments will be directed. The Regional Growth Strategy restricts extension of urban-standard sanitary sewerage services beyond the Growth Policy Area Boundary as set out under policy 2.2(5). (p 6 RGS)

*Within the Growth Policy Area, employment and population growth is to be directed to areas that meet criteria set out in Objective 3.1, for complete communities. Complete communities are intended to accommodate housing, jobs and services at densities that will support transit. Focusing growth in complete communities is central to reducing community-based greenhouse gas emissions, reducing development pressure on rural and resource lands and keeping infrastructure affordable. (10 RGS)

* The Regional Growth Strategy does this by designating for long term protection as Capital Green Lands and Renewable Resource Lands those natural assets including parks, ecological reserves, forests, farmland and watersheds that make up the region's green infrastructure and contribute to the regional economy. The designation of a Growth Policy Area reinforces the protection of Capital Green Lands, Renewable Resource Lands and Rural / Rural Residential Policy Areas and has the further benefit of supporting the long-term effort to keep urban settlement compact. (p15 RGS)

* 2.2 Manage Regional Infrastructure Services Sustainably Regional servicing infrastructure includes drinking water, liquid and solid waste. These services must be efficiently and cost-effectively managed for the long-term in order to accommodate the anticipated population increase. The Sooke reservoir, managed and operated by the CRD, is the drinking water supply for the Capital Region. The CRD provides treated bulk water to multiple distribution systems around the region. The distribution systems differ by municipality and require ongoing cooperation for the planning and management of the service. Private wells and community water systems supply water to many residents in rural areas. The Hartland Landfill provides solid waste disposal services for the Capital Region. The CRD sees waste as a commodity and seeks the highest and best use for these resources by applying the 5R hierarchy of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Resource Recovery and Residual Management. This includes a focus towards zero waste in our landfill, recycling programs, organics diversion, landfill gas capture and emerging opportunities. The Saanich Peninsula Waste-water Treatment Plant provides secondary waste-water treatment to residents in the Saanich Peninsula. At the time of writing the Regional Growth Strategy, a planning process is underway to identify waste-water management strategies for

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the Core Area. Private septic fields treat liquid waste for residents in rural areas. Infrastructure services may be impacted not only by an increased demand for the service as the population grows, but also by the form, pattern and location of new development. Servicing new development with limited or low density, which adds fewer new users per unit length of water or sewer pipe than the system average, would generally be more expensive than in denser areas. The costs of operating and maintaining this infrastructure over its life-cycle require consideration beyond the one-time capital investment. Keeping urban settlement compact will help create the densities needed to create efficient servicing infrastructure. It is also necessary to acknowledge and plan for the effects of a changing climate on regional infrastructure. (p18. RGS)

*Infrastructure services may be impacted not only by an increased demand for the service as the population grows, but also by the form, pattern and location of new development.

Servicing new development with limited or low density, which adds fewer new users per unit length of water or sewer pipe than the system average, would generally be more expensive than in denser areas. The costs of operating and maintaining this infrastructure over its lifecycle require consideration beyond the one-time capital investment. Keeping urban settlement compact will help create the densities needed to create efficient servicing infrastructure. It is also necessary to acknowledge and plan for the effects of a changing climate on regional infrastructure. (p18)

* Managing regional infrastructure services according to the principles below and as outlined in Objective 2.1 will help minimize social, environmental and financial costs of providing regional infrastructure. Principles I. Promote settlement patterns that are cost-effective and efficient to service; II. Minimize negative financial impacts to those currently serviced (impacts to consider system life cycle costs); and 18 CRD Regional Growth Strategy III. Avoid negatively impacting the long-term availability of the service for existing development and planned growth within the growth boundary, recognizing the impacts of climate change. Policies 1. Manage infrastructure services, including water supply and distribution, in accordance with the principles set out in Objectives 2.1 (Protect, Conserve and Manage Ecosystem Health) and 2.2 (Manage Regional Infrastructure Services Sustainably). 2. Provide new water system services (public or private) only to areas where: a. For a municipality, the areas to be serviced are shown on RGS Map 3 as either Growth Policy Area or Rural/Rural Residential Policy Area and the area to be serviced is consistent with OCP servicing provisions and an accepted Regional Context Statement identifies the population to be serviced and how growth in water demand will be addressed. b. For the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, the areas to be serviced are shown on RGS Map 3 as either Growth Policy Area or Rural/Rural Residential Policy Area and the area to be serviced is consistent with OCP servicing provisions and the applicable OCP identifies the population to be serviced and how growth in water demand will be addressed.

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Where new water system services are provided to the community of Shirley-Jordan River, areas to be serviced may also include lands shown on RGS Map 3 as Renewable Resource Lands Policy Area and designated in the OCP as Coastal Uplands subject to limiting development potential of serviced parcels to a density of one parcel per four hectares, as set out in the OCP. 3. Notwithstanding policy 2.2(2), the CRD may extend water service if required to address a pressing public health, public safety or environmental issue relating to existing units or to service agriculture. 4. Where water service is extended to service agriculture in Policy 2.2(3), water service may be provided to residential units along the serviced line on lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve as long as an OCP is in place that prevents further subdivision or an increase in permitted residential density. 5. Do not further extend urban sewer services outside the Growth Policy Area Boundary depicted on Map 3. 6. Notwithstanding policies 2.2(2) and 2.2(4), evaluate requests for services from jurisdictions outside of Capital Regional District membership with a view towards supporting mutually beneficial relationships and fostering development consistent with all RGS objectives and policies. (p 18 and 19 RGS)

* Policies 1. Manage infrastructure services, including water supply and distribution, in accordance with the principles set out in Objectives 2.1 (Protect, Conserve and Manage Ecosystem Health) and 2.2 (Manage Regional Infrastructure Services Sustainably). (p19 RGS)

* Design, manage and construct climate change-adaptive and risk-adaptive infrastructure and utilities in the Growth Management Planning Area. P21 RGS)

* Prioritize transit and active modes in community planning and in the design and implementation of infrastructure, facilities and programs. (p25 RGS)

*Provide for land development patterns that maintain an adequate supply of employment land, industrial land, transportation infrastructure and services to support a diverse regional economy (27 RGS)

*Reducing community greenhouse gas emissions requires action on many fronts and is the responsibility of many actors including the Capital Regional District, local and senior levels of government, industry, institutions, businesses and residents. It requires coordinated, consistently applied action focusing on people, land use, transportation, infrastructure and technology. Achieving community greenhouse gas reduction targets means following four related principles. Principles I. Create a low-carbon built form to reduce energy demand; II. Increase energy efficiency and recovery from retrofits and new development; III. Promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable, clean energy to reduce

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reliance on fossil fuels; and IV. Protect the carbon sequestration value of natural systems, including forested lands and wetlands. (P30 RGS)

* Design, manage, fund and operate programs, services and infrastructure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in keeping with the principles outlined in Objective 7.1. (p31 RGS)

* by 2038 Environment and Infrastructure 2.1 Protect, Conserve and Manage Ecosystem Health • Acquire 100% of the sea-to-sea green/blue belt. • Complete 100% of the Regional Trail Network. • Reduce contaminants to fresh and marine water bodies. 2.2 Deliver Services Consistent with RGS Objectives • Prepare long-term capital plans for Capital Regional District utilities and major infrastructure improvements necessary to address the impacts of climate change and natural hazards. (p34 RGS)

*Infrastructure The physical capital and associated services considered basic and necessary to the functioning of the built environment. These include such things as: sanitary sewers, treatment plants, and water pipelines and distribution/collection systems; roads, signals, sidewalks and other components of the transportation system including transit vehicles, ferries and airports; solid waste management facilities including transfer stations and landfills; and, energy supply and distribution systems including hydroelectric and natural gas transmission and distribution systems. More generally, infrastructure can refer to other tangible public and private assets necessary to support the development of a modern urban settlement, such as hospitals, schools and recreation facilities. In some cases, preserved green space and natural areas including forests, wetlands, and stream corridors have been described as a “green infrastructure”, essential to the vitality of healthy human communities. (p44 RGS)

*More generally, infrastructure can refer to other tangible public and private assets necessary to support the development of a modern urban settlement, such as hospitals, schools and recreation facilities. In some cases, preserved green space and natural areas including forests, wetlands, and stream corridors have been described as a “green infrastructure”, essential to the vitality of healthy human communities. (44P RGS)

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****COMMENT**

Green infrastructure would preclude infrastructure that serves fossil fuel expansion, which would continue to undermine the RGS vision by satisfying the wants of today while compromising the needs and rights of future generations

SDG Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries. We cannot live in a truly developed world without equal opportunities for both countries and their citizens. Equality is at the core of all the sustainable development goals. Together we can empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all people irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status.

****COMMENT**

The present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. (Article 2 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, ratified, 1976)

Similar wording appears in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (ICESCR), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), International Convention Against all forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention for the Protection of Migrant Workers and Their Families, Convention on Refugees United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) etc.

SDG Goal 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

*Create Safe and Complete Communities: The Regional Growth Strategy supports the development of complete communities within the Growth Policy Area that enable residents to undertake a wider range of daily activities closer to home. It does this by supporting the development of communities that offer a variety of housing types and tenures in close proximity to places of work, schools, shopping, recreation, parks and green space. Complete communities provide a better balance and distribution of jobs and housing, a wider choice of

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affordable housing types, a better distribution of public services and more opportunity to walk, cycle, and use public transit conveniently. Complete communities are safe, socially diverse, openly accessible, livable and attract economic investment, thereby enhancing social sustainability and health and well-being. (p.20 RSG)

****COMMENT**

Safe and healthy working conditions;(7b Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966)

SDG Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns resilient and sustainable

*Principles I. Waste discharges of all types should not exceed the assimilative capacity of the natural environment (including land, air and water); II. Depletion rates for natural resources should not exceed the regenerative capacity of the ecosystems that produce them; III. Consumption of scarce renewable and non-renewable resources should be minimized through conservation, efficiency and application of technology and reduce, reuse and recycle practices; (p16)

****COMMENT**

Precedents:

A survey of precedents from the 1972 UN Convention on Humans and the Environment to the 2000 Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) reflects concerns about over-consumption.

In 1972 there were calls for tolls on certain forms of international transport or on the consumption of certain non-renewable resources

In 1976 Human settlement policies and programmes should define and strive for progressive minimum standards for an acceptable quality of life. These standards will

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vary within and between countries, as well as over periods of time, and therefore must be subject to change in accordance with conditions and possibilities. Some standards are most appropriately defined in quantitative terms, thus providing precisely defined targets at the local and national levels. Others must be qualitative, with their achievement subject to felt need. At the same time, social justice and a fair sharing of resources demand the discouragement of excessive consumption (III 6 Habitat I)

Identifying and developing new sources of energy and promoting more efficient use of energy resources, for example through innovative approaches in design and management and although financial and other incentives for energy conservation and through disincentives for wasteful consumption (Recommendation C. 5 ii Habitat I)

More efficient use of resources and elimination of excessive consumption through development and implementation of maximum standards, education, conservation and other appropriate measures; (C11 ii Habitat I)

Reduce inequalities in service and access to water as well as over-consumption and waste of water supply; C12v Habitat I)

(vii) Innovative transportation systems need to be encouraged for reducing energy consumption and conserving resources and avoiding pollution C14 vii

Human settlements are consuming more and more energy just when mankind (humanity) has become aware of the need to cease environmentally degrading and wasteful use of non-renewable energy resources. reducing energy consumption by changes in land-use planning, building design, living patterns and appropriate transportation systems including emphasis on mass transportation.

The wasteful consumption and misuse of scarce natural resources including the resources expended by Governments on armaments constitute serious limitation on the availability of resources for development purposes. (14 (c) Habitat I, 1976)

In 1992 there was the recognition that:

“Poverty and environmental degradation are closely interrelated. While poverty results in certain kinds of environmental stress, the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries’ ‘resulting in overconsumption.

And committing to “Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production” (chapter 3, Agenda 21, UNCED)

In 2002 at WSSD 25

“Focusing on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption Basis for action
Poverty and environmental degradation are closely interrelated. While poverty results in certain kinds of environmental stress, the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances. (4.3, Agenda 21 UUNCED 1992)

Ecological problems, such as global climate change, largely driven by unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, are adding to the threats to the well-being of future generations. (Preamble, 1.2 c WSSD 2002)

SDG Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

*Vision In 2038, Capital Regional District residents enjoy a healthy and rewarding quality of life. We have a vital economy, livable communities and steward our environment and natural resources with care. Our choices reflect our commitment to collective action on climate change. (P.1)

*Fundamental to this vision is a commitment to work toward regional sustainability. Simply defined, sustainability means that actions taken to meet needs today do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs, ensure the ongoing health of the natural processes that sustain life, and support the social and economic arrangements that create prosperity and well-being. Further, sustainability is critical to addressing head-on the myriad effects of a changing global climate. Whether in the context of compact growth, multi-modal transportation, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, environmental conservation, protection of human and ecosystem health or safe and complete communities, decisions at the local and regional level play an important role in addressing climate change. (P.1)

*Input and feedback have affirmed the desire for a strong growth management framework rooted in the 2003 Regional Growth Strategy objectives and emphasized the importance of mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. Updates integrate recommendations from completed planning documents and address the requirements for policies, actions and targets for greenhouse gas reductions (P.2)

*Figure 1 illustrates the interconnections among the Regional Growth Strategy objectives and between these objectives and climate change. The objectives are colour-coded to reflect how different elements of sustainability are represented in 26

the Regional Growth Strategy and how together, these elements provide for a climate action lens. Keeping urban settlement compact and increasing transportation choice have a high degree of interdependence with other objectives. These strong links illustrate that achieving these two objectives will be particularly important for the realization of the regional vision. Further, the graphic illustrates that the Regional Growth Strategy objectives will support climate action and that taking action on climate change will, in turn, impact each objective.

(P. 6)

*reduce negative impacts on the natural environment and mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. (p7)

* Plan for the long-term strategic resource needs in the Capital Region – including food, (paying specific attention to local food production), energy, water, and aggregate materials consistent with the principles set out in Objectives 2.1 and 7.1. Plans will consider long term demand, security of supply and potential impacts of factors such as long-term climate change, fossil fuel depletion and water reclamation where feasible, and make policy and program recommendations to ensure that future needs are successfully anticipated and met. (p17)

*Infrastructure services may be impacted not only by an increased demand for the service as the population grows, but also by the form, pattern and location of new development. Servicing new development with limited or low density, which adds fewer new users per unit length of water or sewer pipe than the system average, would generally be more expensive than in denser areas. The costs of operating and maintaining this infrastructure over its lifecycle require consideration beyond the one-time capital investment. Keeping urban settlement compact will help create the densities needed to create efficient servicing infrastructure. It is also necessary to acknowledge and plan for the effects of a changing climate on regional infrastructure. (p18)

* Avoid negatively impacting the long-term availability of the service for existing development and planned growth within the growth boundary, recognizing the impacts of climate change. (19)

* Design, manage and construct climate change-adaptive and risk-adaptive infrastructure and utilities in the Growth Management Planning Area. (p21) 27

*Principles I. Take a coordinated and engaged approach to planning; II. Prioritize strategic investments that serve regional mobility needs; III. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change;(P21)

*Prioritize the attraction of new businesses and investment that will support climate action. (p27)

* Significantly Reduce Community-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions the Regional Growth Strategy supports the reduction of community-based greenhouse gas emissions to address the effects of a changing climate. In the Capital Region, community greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation system, the heating, cooling and energizing of buildings, waste, energy production, the production of goods and agriculture.³ The Capital Regional District and local governments have long-standing commitments to make decisions, target investments and build capacity for reducing the use of fossil fuels and expanding the clean energy economy. Further, the Regional Growth Strategy's aim to keep urban settlement compact, protect, conserve and manage ecosystem health, build safe and complete communities, increase transportation choice, strengthen the regional economy and foster a resilient regional food and agriculture system will support the low-carbon built form that is the foundation for reducing energy demand. Reducing community greenhouse gas emissions requires action on many fronts and is the responsibility of many actors including the Capital Regional District, local and senior levels of government, industry, institutions, businesses and residents. It requires coordinated, consistently applied action focusing on people, land use, transportation, infrastructure and technology. Achieving community greenhouse gas reduction targets means following four related principles. Principles I. Create a low-carbon built form to reduce energy demand; II. Increase energy efficiency and recovery from retrofits and new development; III. Promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable, clean energy to reduce reliance on fossil fuels; and IV. Protect the carbon sequestration value of natural systems, including forested lands and wetlands. (p30)

*Policies 1. Prioritize investment that will provide for a low-carbon built form that supports efficient energy use, the provision of clean and renewable district energy, active transportation modes, transit service, and low/zero emissions vehicles. 2. Design, manage, fund and operate programs, services and infrastructure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in keeping with the principles outlined in Objective 7.1. 3. Strategically acquire protected areas that contribute to climate change mitigation. (p31) 28

*1-3(a) Prepare a Climate Action Strategy to support the implementation of community-based greenhouse gas reduction initiatives. (p 32)

Climate Action Strategy* (p33)

At the time of writing, the Food and Agriculture Strategy and the Climate Action Strategy are under development. (p33 RGS)

Prepare long-term capital plans for Capital Regional District utilities and major infrastructure improvements necessary to address the impacts of climate change and natural hazards. (p34)

***Climate Action 7.1 Significantly reduce community-based greenhouse gas emissions • Reduce community greenhouse gas emissions by 33% (from 2007 levels) by 2020, and by 61% by 2038. (p34)**

Ban Ki Moon, in Paris, urged states to negotiate with a global vision not with national vested interests (COP 21 press conference)

A real global vision, however, would be time lines and targets in line with existing and emerging science such as 15% below 1990 by 2017, 20% below 1990 by 2018, 30% below 1990 levels by 2019, 40% below 1990 levels by 2020, 60 % below 1990 levels by 2025, 75% below 1990 below 1990 levels by 2035 and 100% below 1990 emissions by 2040, and reaching decarbonization with 100% socially equitable ecologically sound renewable energy, Climate Change A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity. (p43) 5 Based on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change definition.

Canada is the highest per capita contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and Canada's carbon budget has been ignored by Canada. In 2016 Canada is in danger of being in non-compliance with the purpose of the legally binding United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Article 2)

..."to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system." 29

TRANSPORTATION (41 REFERENCE)

Automobile

Increase Transportation Choice the Regional Growth Strategy supports the development of a balanced and sustainable transportation system providing residents with reasonable and affordable transportation choices that enhance overall regional quality of life. To achieve this objective, the Regional Growth Strategy relies on two related initiatives. First, the coordination of land use and transportation so that the majority of regional residents do not have to rely solely on travel by automobile to meet their daily need (P. 24)

* Increase Transportation Choice the Regional Growth Strategy supports the development of a balanced and sustainable transportation system providing residents with reasonable and affordable transportation choices that enhance overall regional quality of life. To achieve this objective, the Regional Growth Strategy relies on two related initiatives. First, the coordination of land use and transportation so that the majority of regional residents do not have to rely solely on travel by automobile to meet their daily need (p39)

Regional Multi-Modal Network The interconnected transportation corridors defined in the Regional Transportation Plan. The multi-modal network provides for connectivity across modes (walking, cycling, transit and driving) and describes the backbone of the region's transportation system. The corridors that comprise the network are prioritized based on expected demand for two or more transportation modes. Sea to Sea Green/Blue Belt A band of watersheds running Transit

Focus employment and population growth primarily in complete communities, located in areas that meet criteria described in Objective 3.1, that will encourage the development of walkable, bikeable and transit-focused areas with a dense mix of housing, employment, services and public open space; (RGS p9)

The aim of keeping urban settlement compact is to concentrate growth within a firm Growth Policy Area Boundary that will over time result in the creation of centres and connecting corridors that can be effectively served by express-bus transit. This lays the foundation to achieve a longer term objective of connecting the downtown Victoria–Douglas Street–Uptown corridor with Colwood and

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Langford by high-capacity public transit running in a dedicated right-of-way. (RGS p9)

Within the Growth Policy Area, employment and population growth is to be directed to areas that meet criteria set out in Objective 3.1, for complete communities. Complete communities are intended to accommodate housing, jobs and services at densities that will support transit. Focusing growth in complete communities is central to reducing community-based greenhouse gas emissions, reducing development pressure on rural and resource lands and keeping infrastructure affordable. (RGS p10)

*Create Safe and Complete Communities the Regional Growth Strategy supports the development of complete communities within the Growth Policy Area that enable residents to undertake a wider range of daily activities closer to home. It does this by supporting the development of communities that offer a variety of housing types and tenures in close proximity to places of work, schools, shopping, recreation, parks and green space.

Complete communities provide a better balance and distribution of jobs and housing, a wider choice of affordable housing types, a better distribution of public services and more opportunity to walk, cycle, and use public transit conveniently. Complete communities, are safe, socially diverse, openly accessible, livable and attract economic investment, thereby enhancing social sustainability and health and well-being. (RGS p20)

*Capitalize on the potential for alternatives to driving alone; VI. Enhance the role for public transit; and VII. Maximize efficiency of existing transportation corridors for multiple modes. (P.14 RGS)

COMMENT

(UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC))

Promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion, including transfer, of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol in all relevant sectors, including the energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management sectors; Article 4C Commitments

In the Paris Agreement, there is no mention of transportation, transit or automobiles 31

The proposal to revive the E&N Railway with cycling and pedestrian lanes alongside merits support and adequate funding should be supported.

Locate growth and major trip-generating uses where such can be efficiently serviced by transit and active transportation. 3. Prioritize transit and active modes in community planning and in the design and implementation of infrastructure, facilities and programs. (P.25 RGS)

Ensure the long-term protection of Renewable Resource Lands depicted on Maps 3 and 4. This could include policies aimed for buffering and land use transition between Renewable Resource Lands and settled areas (i.e., lands within the Rural / Rural Residential Land Use Policy Area as well as the Growth Policy Area), and policies that support farming within the Agricultural Land Reserve, and forestry, silviculture, forestry-related industrial uses and low-impact tourism within the Private Managed Forest Land and Crown and other forest lands. (P.27 RGS)

Prioritize investment that will provide for a low-carbon built form that supports efficient energy use, the provision of clean and renewable district energy, active transportation modes, transit service, and low/zero emissions vehicles.

The Capital Regional District will work with the Province, agencies such as the Vancouver Island Health Authority and BC Transit, and the federal government to coordinate implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy while respecting the authority of each jurisdiction. (P.33 RGS)

By 2038 Increase Transportation Choice • Achieve a transportation system that sees 42% of all trips made by walking, cycling, transit. (P.34 RGS)

b. Minimize automobile use and encourage walking, cycling and efficient public transit; c. Move goods and people efficiently, making effective use of transportation and utility corridors; (P.39 RGS)

Infrastructure The physical capital and associated services considered basic and necessary to the functioning of the built environment. These include such things as: sanitary sewers, treatment plants, and water pipelines and distribution/collection systems; roads, signals, sidewalks and other components of the transportation system including transit vehicles, (P.39 RGS) 44 32

Regional Multi-Modal Network The interconnected transportation corridors defined in the Regional Transportation Plan. The multi-modal network provides for connectivity across modes (walking, cycling, transit and driving) and describes the backbone of the region's transportation system. The corridors that comprise the network are prioritized based on expected demand for two or more transportation modes. (P.44 RGS)

****COMMENT**

A global vision would be to address Article 2 and at a minimum to immediately end all subsidies for fossil fuel, to calculate the carbon budget for Canada, to divest in fossil fuels and to reinvest in renewable energy, to conserve sinks - such as old growth forests and bogs (not just as a means to offset emissions), to strengthen conservation of biodiversity, to avoid all false solutions such as nuclear, Geo-engineering and bio-fuels which would all violate principles within the UNFCCC, promote nature-based solutions along with solar energy, wind energy, wave and geothermal and to compensate for historical emissions and to institute a fair and just transition for workers affected negatively by the new vision.

SDG Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development

*But we don't protect nature just so we can hike, relax and contemplate. We must also safeguard endangered species and sensitive ecosystems such as Garry Oak meadows and stands of old growth Douglas-fir. And we need to give Pacific salmon a fighting chance to return to urban streams. To that end we envision the development of a regional green/blue space system that will protect and maintain the full range and diversity of the natural environment that surrounds us, including significant green spaces, the marine environment, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, and unique ecosystems

*Fundamental to these aspirations is a commitment to work toward regional sustainability. Simply defined, this means that actions taken to meet needs today do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs, ensure the ongoing health of the natural processes that sustain life, and support the social and economic arrangements that create prosperity and well-being

(P 1 RGS) 33

*The Capital Region has a rich inheritance of natural lands and waters of great beauty and biophysical diversity. Residents of the Capital Region enjoy a healthy environment where environmental quality is improved and the inheritance of renewable and non-renewable natural resources is carefully stewarded. Many of the region's terrestrial, fresh water and marine environments – its green and blue spaces – are of provincial, national and international significance.² The system of green and blue spaces that make up the region's natural environment spans a diverse range of ecosystems and land uses and requires integrated, collaborative and co-operative management of land and water resources. The Regional Growth Strategy aims to protect the landscape character, ecological heritage and biodiversity of the Capital Region by protecting, conserving and managing lands according to the principles set out below. (P1 RGS)

****COMMENT**

An example by the CRD of not compromising the needs of tomorrow was the passage of the motion opposing any project that expands oil tanker traffic through the Salish Sea. The expansion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline would definitely jeopardize the many conservation proposals encompassing the Salish Sea.

One proposal to assist in the achieving of this vision, in protecting the regional blue and green spaces and in furthering regional sustainability and the needs of tomorrow, could be to work towards establishing a Salish Sea Biosphere Reserve. In Canada, the necessary legislation should be enacted to ensure compliance with The UN Convention on the Law of the Seas.

Preamble

Promoting the peaceful uses of the seas and oceans, the equitable and efficient utilization of their resources, the conservation of their living resources, and the study, protection and preservation of the marine environment,

Recognizing the desirability of establishing through this Convention, with due regard for the sovereignty of all States, a legal order for the seas and oceans which will facilitate international communication, and will promote the peaceful uses of the seas and oceans, the equitable and efficient utilization of their resources, the conservation of their living resources, and the study, protection and preservation of the marine environment,

Recognizing that the area (open sea) and its resources are the common heritage of all mankind [all humanity] 34

“States have the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment. (Part XII. Article 192. General Obligation. Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment, (Article 136) Law of the Seas, 1982)
It is time to heed warnings, and discharge obligation and act on commitments related to the oceans

SDG Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The West Shore and Saanich Peninsula feature smaller urban centres, with forestry lands to the west throughout the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. Agricultural lands are concentrated on the Saanich Peninsula, with some slightly more dispersed lands on the West Shore. Appendix (p 4 RGS) RGS 2.1 Protect Regional Green and Blue Space the Capital Region has a rich inheritance of natural lands and waters of great beauty and biophysical diversity. Many of the region’s green and blue spaces are of provincial, national and international significance. The Regional Growth Strategy aims to protect the landscape character, ecological heritage and biodiversity of the Capital Region.

*It has become clear, however, that even modest population growth would undermine the regional vision if were it accommodated as it has been since the 1950s, through further urban expansion into farms, forests and countryside. Achieving the regional vision requires a concerted effort to largely shift to policies that encourage investment and development in designated urban centres

* The policy area also includes lands with ecosystem benefits to be identified and protected through means such as development permit areas, conservation covenants, or acquisition and designation as a park or ecological reserve.

*Renewable Resource Lands Policy Area: Includes lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), the Forest Land Reserve (FLR), and Crown Forest Lands identified in the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy. The Regional Growth Strategy proposes in Initiative 2.1 the continued long-term use of these lands as renewable resource working landscapes

*The Regional Growth Strategy seeks to protect the character and quality of rural communities, to ensure that they remain strongly rooted in the agricultural and resource land base, and that the rural countryside and natural landscape remain a durable fact of 35

life in the Capital Region. It does this by designating for long term protection as Capital Green Lands and Renewable Resource Lands, those natural assets including major parks, ecological reserves, forests, farmland and watersheds identified in the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy as the region's green infrastructure. The designation of Capital Green Lands and Renewable Resource Lands has the further benefit of reinforcing the long-term effort to keep urban settlement compact.

The CRD, member municipalities and the Province agree to establish or strengthen policies within Official Community Plans that ensure the long-term protection of Renewable Resource Lands depicted on Map 3 & 4. This would include policies aimed at buffering Renewable Ensure the long-term protection of Renewable Resource Lands depicted on Maps 3 and 4. This could include policies aimed for buffering and land use transition between Renewable Resource Lands and settled areas (i.e., lands within the Rural / Rural Residential Land Use Policy Area as well as the Growth Policy Area), and policies that support farming within the Agricultural Land Reserve, and forestry, silviculture, forestry-related industrial uses and low-impact tourism within the Private Managed Forest Land and Crown and other forest lands (p.27)

*Finding ways to increase economic activity in forestry and agriculture including high-value and specialized agriculture and value-added forestry;

*Pursuing growth in New Economy sectors such as skilled services, specialized tourism, advanced technology, high-value and specialized agriculture and forestry, film/video making and the arts, higher education, health, light manufacturing and home-based business;

Actions that explore the opportunities for primary and value-added natural resource industries such as forestry, fisheries, and aggregates.

Natural amenities associated with shorelines, streams, estuaries, hillsides and forested areas will be protected. (P37)

The Sooke Electoral Area contains significant provincial, regional and locally controlled parks and trail systems as well as ecological reserves. It will continue to preserve large areas of forest and natural green space for outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to the Capital Region

Maintain a secure and productive resource base, including the agricultural land and the forest land reserves; (p49) 36

In some cases, preserved green space and natural areas including forests, wetlands, and stream corridors have been described as a “green infrastructure”, essential to the vitality of healthy human communities. (P44 RGS)

But we don't protect nature just so we can hike, relax and contemplate. We must also safeguard endangered species and sensitive ecosystems such as Garry Oak meadows and stands of old growth Douglas–fir. (P42 RGS)

****COMMENT**

Rural and Urban Conservation Covenants should be promoted and strengthened.

PRECEDENTS In Habitat I

Recommendation D1

Land resource management

(a) Land is one of the most valuable natural resources and it must be used rationally. Public ownership or effective control of land in the public interest, is the single, most important means of improving the capacity of human settlements to absorb changes and movements in population, modifying their internal structure and achieving a more equitable distribution of the benefits of development, whilst assuring that environmental impacts are considered.

(b) Land is a scarce resource whose management should be subject to public surveillance control in the interest of the nation

(c) This applies in particular to land required for:

(v) The protection and enhancement of the natural environment especially in sensitive areas of special geographic and ecological significance such as coastal regions and other areas subject to the impact of development, recreation and tourism activities.

(d) Land is a natural resource fundamental to the economic, social and political development of peoples and therefore Governments must maintain full jurisdiction and exercise complete sovereignty over such and exercise complete sovereignty over such land with a view to freely planning development of human settlements throughout the whole of the natural territory. This resource must not be the subject of restrictions imposed by foreign nations which enjoy the benefits while preventing its rational use.

Recommendation D2 37

Control of land use changes.

(a) Agricultural land, particularly on the periphery of urban areas, is an important national resource; without public control land is a prey to speculation and urban encroachment.

(b) Change in the use of land especially from agricultural to urban, should be subject to public control and regulation.

(c) Such control may be exercised through

(i) zoning and land-use planning as a basic instrument of land policy in general and control of land-use changes in particular;

(ii) Direct intervention, e.g. the creation of land reserves and land banks purchasing compensated expropriation and/or pre-exemption, acquisition of development rights, conditioned leasing of public communal land, formation of public and mixed development enterprises;

(ii) Legal controls, e.g. compulsory registration, changes in administrative boundaries, development building and local permits, assembly and re-plotting;

Recommendation D3

Recapturing plus value.

(a) Excessive profits resulting from the increase in land value due to development and change in use are one of the principal causes of the concentration of wealth in private hands. Taxation should not be seen only as a source of revenue for the community but also as a powerful tool to encourage development of desirable locations, to exercise a controlling effect on the land market and to redistribute to the public at large the benefits of the unearned increase in land values.

(b) The unearned increment resulting from the rise in land values resulting from change in use of land, from public investment or decision or due to the general growth of the community must be subject to appropriate recapture by public bodies (the community), unless the situation calls for other additional measures such as new patterns of ownership, the general acquisition of land by public bodies.

FORESTS

Move from logging old growth to second growth (Caracas Declaration 1992) 38

Also, a motion passed at the 2016 UBCN to move away from logging old growth

Biodiversity

From Biodiversity Chapter 11 of Agenda 21, UN Conference on Environment and Development

value of forests through non-damaging uses

It is also possible to increase the value of forests through non-damaging uses such as eco-tourism.... Concerted action is needed in order to increase people's perception of the value of forests and of the benefits they provide. (11.22. Deforestation)

value of ecotourism

"to promote more comprehensive use and economic contribution of forest areas by incorporating eco-tourism into forest management and planning. (11.23 d Deforestation)

From the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Noting that it is vital to anticipate, prevent and attack the causes of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity at source,

Noting also that where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat,

Noting further that the fundamental requirement for the conservation of biological diversity is the *in-situ* conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings,

Article 1. Objectives

The objectives of this Convention, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.

Action urge Canada to put the ratified convention on the floor of the house so that parliament can enact the necessary legislation to ensure compliance

Drought

Urge Canada to rejoin and implement the 1992 UN Convention on Combating Desertification and Drought (UNCDD) 39

From the convention UNCCD

Article 10 National action programmes 1. The purpose of national action programmes is to identify the factors contributing to desertification and practical measures necessary to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. 2. National action programmes shall specify the respective roles of government, local communities and land users and the resources available and needed. They shall, inter alia: (a) incorporate long-term strategies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, emphasize implementation and be integrated with national policies for sustainable development;

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

To promote peaceful societies, militarism including war games exercises and military budgets have to be appropriately addressed

Request the federal government to prevent the circulation and berthing of nuclear powered and nuclear arms capable vessels in the BC waters and ports in the CRD, and prohibit war games such as Exercise Trident Fury

Precedent from Habitat I: In 1976 at Habitat I, member states of the United Nations affirmed the following in relation to the military budget: "The waste and misuse of resources in war and armaments should be prevented. All countries should make a firm commitment to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament. Part of the resources thus released should be utilized so as to achieve a better quality of life for humanity and particularly the peoples of developing countries" (II, 12 Habitat I 1976).

Access to justice for all

Precedent

All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any 40

ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. (Article 26, International Covenant on Civil and Rights, 1966) ``Other status`` has been extended to include disabilities, LGBTQ rights, form of family, social circumstances etc.

But some are more equal than others! Rather than injunctions being used against those who are causing harm to human health or the environment. Injunctions are used against those who strive to prevent the harm

SDG Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

SDG Goal 18 support the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

*Principles I. Support First Nations food interests and rights; (p.28 RGS) *At the present time, the Capital Region's ten First Nations are not partners in the regional growth strategy, nor does it apply to the Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Areas, which fall under the planning jurisdiction of the Islands Trust (see Map 1). (p.2 RGS)

*Citizens, local governments, First Nations, school district boards, stakeholders, and provincial and federal agencies have been involved in the Strategy's update through a regional sustainability planning process. (p.2 RGS)

*Finding ways to work collaboratively on regional economic development considerations, including cooperation with First Nations; (p.26 RGS)

*need to revitalize indigenous food systems, (p.28 RGS)

*The Board recognizes that First Nations Councils are neighbouring governments in the Capital Region, with a shared interest in managing long term development to enhance regional quality of life. (P.31 RGS)

Implement the Regional Growth Strategy without prejudice to any aboriginal rights or title that may currently exist, or be defined further through treaty or other processes. The Board will do this with the full recognition that Capital Region First Nations have asserted within their traditional territories, aboriginal rights and title and treaty rights currently undergoing formal definition through the modern

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treaty and other processes. The Board recognizes that First Nations Councils are neighbouring governments in the Capital Region, with a shared interest in managing long term development to enhance regional quality of life (p.33 RGS)

*Implement the Regional Growth Strategy without prejudice to any aboriginal rights or title that may currently exist, or be defined further through treaty or other processes. The Board will do this with the full recognition that Capital Region First Nations have asserted within their traditional territories, aboriginal rights and title and treaty rights currently undergoing formal definition through the modern treaty and other processes. The Board recognizes that First Nations Councils are neighbouring governments in the Capital Region, with a shared interest in managing long term development to enhance regional quality of life. Implement the Regional Growth Strategy without prejudice to any aboriginal rights or title that may currently exist, or be defined further through treaty or other processes. The Board will do this with the full recognition that Capital Region First Nations have asserted within their traditional territories, aboriginal rights and title and treaty rights currently undergoing formal definition through the modern treaty and other processes. The Board recognizes that First Nations Councils are neighbouring governments in the Capital Region, with a shared interest in managing long term development to enhance regional quality of life. (P.33 RGS)

****COMMENT**

Unfortunately, there was no actual SDG 18. Indigenous peoples were lobbying for it at the United Nations.

Include reference in the RGS to the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Some matters of particular concern to local First Nations are Tribal Parks, the National Guardian Watchman Program, and CENENITEL (kwananital) – helping one another restore lands and cultures.

In conclusion, while the RGS, the Lima Action Plan, and the SDGs compliment each other and sometimes make up for each other's short-comings.

The following inspiring reflection gives hope that the final RDG will succeed in achieving its vision and fulfilling its principles.

*There are times when we just want to roam the Gowland Range and listen to the sound of air stirred up by eagles' wings. Or stroll the Swan Lake boardwalk and watch a family of proud ducklings parade past our feet. Then there are days when splashing about with our children in the cool, clean waters of Thetis Lake is the only thing worth doing. Or maybe it's kicking up the

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warm, soft sand of Willows Beach. Perhaps it's walking along the Colquitz Creek that makes our world come alive. Or taking a second, reflective look at a rare old Douglas-fir on the grounds of Royal Roads. Whether it is the pastoral splendour of the Saanich Peninsula Farmlands, or the stark and wild beauty of the Juan de Fuca coastline, our ability to appreciate nature begins with whatever captivates our senses. It then expands to values we feel deeply but rarely capture in words. All of us who live in the Capital Regional District, cherish the natural environment that is so essential to our quality of life and we are determined that it never be compromised. So, although we already enjoy a diverse network of protected areas that stretches from the southern Gulf Islands to Port Renfrew, we cannot be complacent. As the region's population continues to grow, we must ensure

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” that the stewardship of the natural environment remains integral to all forms of urban, suburban and rural development. But we don't protect nature just so we can hike, relax and contemplate. We must also safeguard endangered species and sensitive ecosystems such as Garry Oak meadows and stands of old growth Douglas-fir. And we need to give Pacific salmon a fighting chance to return to urban streams. To that end we envision the development of a regional green/blue space system that will protect and maintain the full range and diversity of the natural environment that surrounds us, including significant green spaces, the marine environment, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, and unique ecosystems. We are also committed to protecting and maintaining the last remnants of ecosystems that flourished here before the time of Captain Cook, and to restore natural systems we have altered. This is neither a park plan nor a policy document but a vision of cooperative stewardship that integrates the contributions of citizens, landowners, businesses, communities, and all levels of government. It is a vision of sustaining the essential nature of our region, of continually creating and protecting a livable and healthy community – and passing on that legacy to future generations.

APPENDIX: link to the Biosphere work of the Environmental Law Centre including a short video

https://docs.google.com/document/d/13Ez53iF5ojvJxWU2k0kDYDZ2mktGPwb7fJ_9oRsL10/edit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-el6lBd>

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