

For immediate release**June 29, 2010****Comox Valley regional growth strategy postponed briefly**

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) board of directors has agreed to postpone consideration of first and second reading of the bylaw governing the regional growth strategy, in order to give the K'omoks First Nation the time they've requested to more fully review the draft strategy.

The K'omoks First Nation (KFN) sent a letter to the board earlier this month, expressing concern that they would not be able to complete their review of the regional growth strategy (RGS) by the CVRD board's meeting on June 29, where consideration was to be given of first and second reading of the bylaw.

"The K'omoks First Nation felt that they were at a critical point in their review of the draft regional growth strategy, and we want to respect the request for a postponement. The CVRD board has agreed to a one month postponement even though there are concerns with time lines being very tight," said CVRD board chair Greg Phelps. "We will be meeting with the KFN soon to hear about and discuss their proposal for amendments."

When the CVRD was created in 2008, the province mandated the creation and adoption of a regional growth strategy by December 31st, 2010. The purpose of the RGS is to build consensus among local governments on future policies regarding land use activities and development over the next 20 years. The RGS will provide a framework for future decision-making and land use with the aim of preserving the region's high quality of life.

The Comox Valley regional growth strategy is part of a partnership between the CVRD, the City of Courtenay, the Town of Comox and the Village of Cumberland. It does not include Denman and Hornby Islands, where land use planning is the responsibility of the Islands Trust. The RGS is one of four strategies developed, or in development, to help guide future growth. The others are the regional water strategy, the regional sewer strategy and the sustainability strategy – all of which inform the RGS.

The Comox Valley Regional District is a federation of three electoral areas and three municipalities providing sustainable services for residents and visitors to the area. The members of the regional district work collaboratively on services for the benefit of the diverse urban and rural areas of the Comox Valley.

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