

August 30, 2023

**Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen**

101 Martin Street  
Penticton, BC  
V2A 5J9

Attention: Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Chair and Board

Dear Chair and Board:

**Re: FVRD Regional Growth Strategy *Fraser Valley Future 2050* - Notification of First Reading**

At its July 27, 2023 meeting, the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) Board gave first reading to [\*Fraser Valley Future 2050 Regional Growth Strategy\* Bylaw No. 1706, 2023](#).

Per the FVRD Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Consultation Plan, after first reading, the FVRD is offering to present the final draft RGS to interested affected local government Councils or Boards. This letter is NOT a formal referral for acceptance of the RGS. Once this step is complete, the RGS will return for second reading and the statutory 60-day referral period per s. 436 of the *Local Government Act* will be initiated at that time.

*Fraser Valley Future 2050* is a full update of the "Choices for our Future" RGS approved in 2004. With a current population of approximately 340,000 as of 2021, and expected to increase to over 500,000 by 2050, the region is experiencing significant growth pressures. Along with its burgeoning population, the region is experiencing challenges in terms of increasingly complex growth management issues relating to air quality, transportation and transit, housing affordability, economic growth, healthy communities, climate change, as well as reconciliation with First Nations.

The RGS is centred on eight non-hierarchical, interconnected goals:

- Collaboration
- Economic Strength & Diversity
- Living Well
- Community Building
- Ecosystem Health
- Transportation & Mobility
- Infrastructure & Services
- Climate Change

The creation of the Draft *Fraser Valley Future 2050* RGS has involved an extensive engagement process that has included affected local governments, Indigenous communities and agencies, the Province, the general

public and other agencies. This has led to the creation of an RGS that is reflective of the changing region and better positions the FVRD to effectively manage growth moving forward.

The FVRD has engaged with First Nations communities during the RGS update while striving to follow the principles of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. The feedback and opportunity to learn from and about First Nations communities has been invaluable. Building and strengthening relationships with First Nations is a fundamental element of the Plan.

The FVRD greatly appreciates the involvement of your organization during our RGS update process. Recent engagement with affected local governments included an Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting in January, 2023, with member municipalities and adjacent regional districts, First Nations, the Province, and other agencies taking part. FVRD staff met with staff from member municipalities and adjacent regional districts before and after the IAC meeting to discuss any outstanding items, received comments, and presented to councils as requested.

The Fraser Valley Regional District is offering to meet with your Board at a meeting in September or October 2023 to provide a presentation on the draft *Fraser Valley Future 2050*, and will work with your staff to find an appropriate date. Should your Board be interested in receiving a presentation on the RGS in September or October 2023 please contact Robin Beukens, Planner II at: [rbeukens@fvrd.ca](mailto:rbeukens@fvrd.ca) (604) 702-5491.

Sincerely,



Jason Lum  
Chair of the FVRD Board

Cc: Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer, Fraser Valley Regional District  
Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services, Fraser Valley Regional District  
Bill Newell, Chief Administrative Officer, Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen  
Christopher Garrish, Senior Manager of Planning, Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

Links/attachment:

1. Draft [Fraser Valley Future 2050 Regional Growth Strategy](#)
2. Additional resources including public engagement results  
<https://haveyoursay.fvrd.ca/rgs>
3. Next Steps

**Next Steps:**

August 2023 – offer to present to Councils of affected local governments (member municipalities and adjacent regional districts).

September – October 2023 – presentations to affected local governments.

November 2023 – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of bylaw for updated Regional Growth Strategy and start of 60 day referral period for local governments.

January 2024 – end of 60 day referral period for affected local governments to accept the RGS.

February 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and adoption of Fraser Valley Future 2050 Regional Growth Strategy.