

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN**

**BYLAW NO. 2770.02, 2026**

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**A Bylaw to amend the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen  
South Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 2770, 2017**

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The REGIONAL BOARD of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in open meeting assembled, ENACTS as follows:

1. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the “Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen South Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 2770.02, 2026.”
2. The “Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen South Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 2770, 2017” is amended by:
  - (i) Replacing sentence 1, paragraph 1 of text listed under the sub-section entitled “Introduction”, on page 5 of the bylaw in its entirety with the following:

The South Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) was launched in 2004, adopted in 2010, amended in 2011, updated in 2016 through a minor update process and was the subject of a major amendment in 2026 to update, amongst other things, the Housing and Development objectives and policies.
  - (ii) Replacing policy 1 of the seven policy areas and supporting goals listed under the sub-section entitled “Purpose”, on page 7 of the bylaw in its entirety with the following:
    1. **Housing and Development:** Focus development to serviced areas in designated Growth Areas and Resort Areas.
  - (iii) replacing the sub-section entitled “Planning Context”, commencing on page 8 of the bylaw in its entirety with the following:

**PLANNING CONTEXT**

The South Okanagan RGS was initiated in 2004 and involved several rounds of revisions and modification.

Regional Context Statements for RDOS member governments were subsequently developed and adopted by the City of Penticton, District of Summerland, Town of Osoyoos and the Town of Oliver.

Since its adoption, the RGS has been the subject of a number of amendments, including:

- a minor amendment to include a section on greenhouse gas reduction targets as mandated by new Provincial legislation (2011);
- a minor amendment to improve its organization, improve the clarity of policies, and reduce redundancies (2017); and
- a minor amendment to reflect the creation of Electoral Area “I” (2018).

In 2026 it was determined to further amend the RGS to reflect new provincial legislative requirements, new policy directions contained in recent Electoral Area Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw reviews as well as the incorporation of Okanagan Falls as a municipality.

- (iv) Replace the sub-section entitled “Population and Demographics”, commencing on page 10 of the bylaw in its entirety with the following:

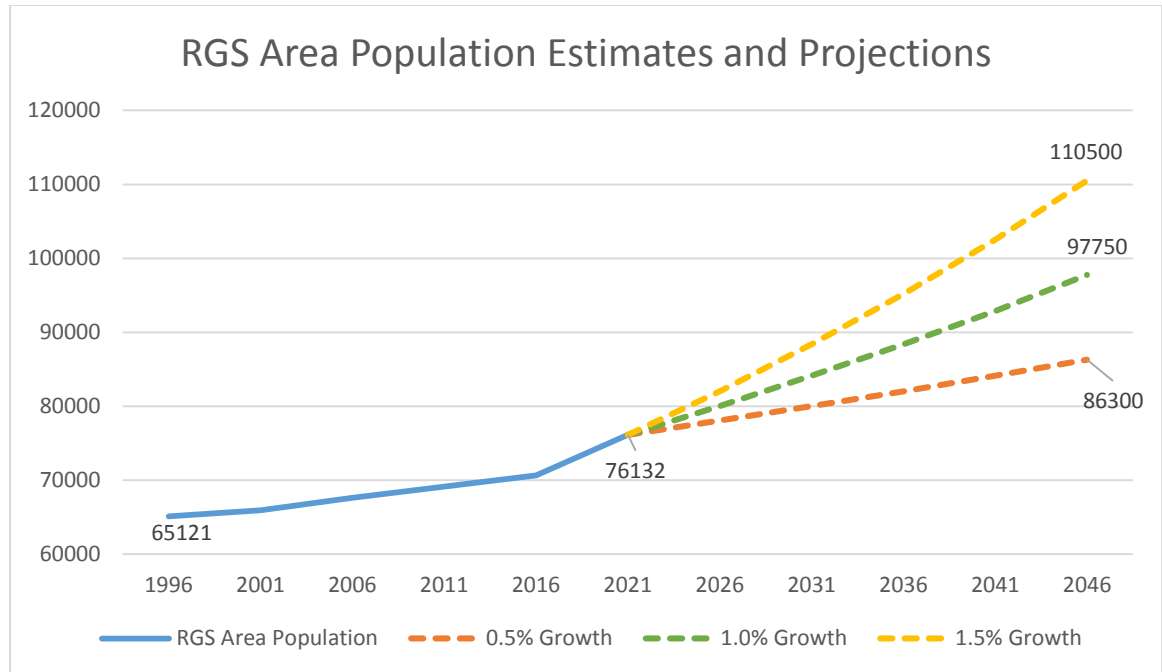
#### **POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS**

When the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) was adopted in 2010, it anticipated “a moderate population increase of more than 1.5% per year”, and a resultant total population of 101,188 by 2022. In hindsight, this estimate was overly optimistic as the average annual growth rate for the area covered by the Regional Growth Strategy was 0.63% per year.

A majority of this growth — 0.7% per year — occurred within the municipalities of Penticton, Summerland, Osoyoos and Oliver, while the Electoral Areas experienced a lesser average annual growth rate of 0.36%.

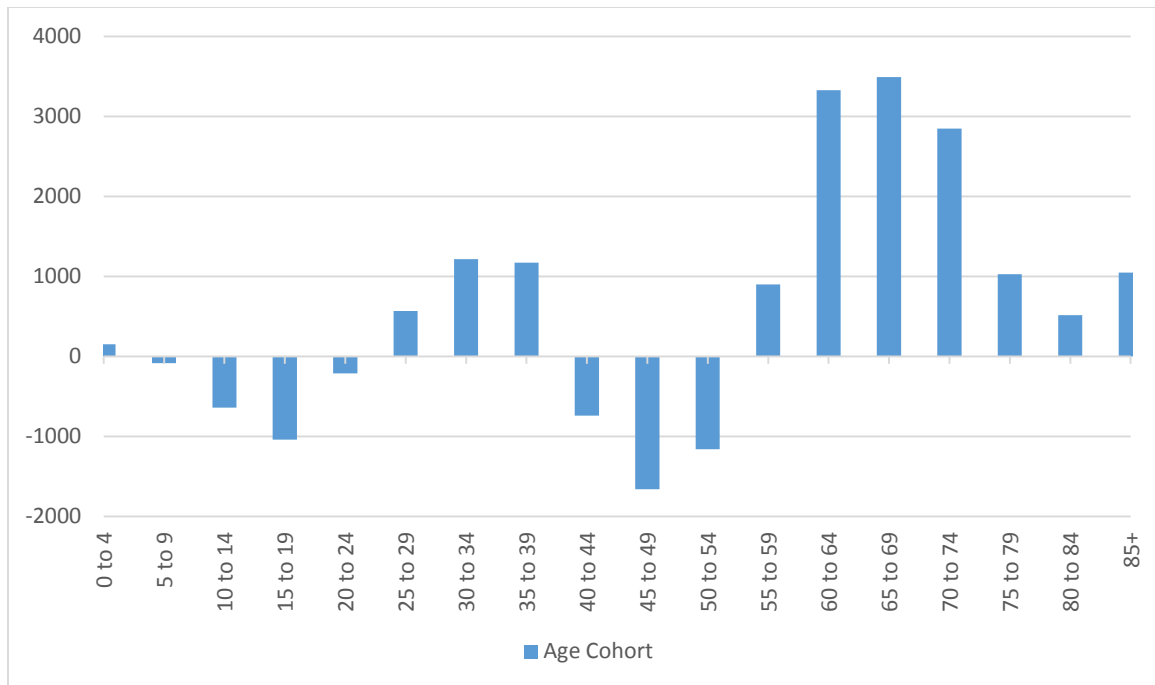
As of 2023, BC Stats population projections estimate a total population in the RGS area of 77,355, while the population of the RDOS as a whole is estimated to be 94,533.

At present, BC Stats is projecting an anticipated average annual growth for the RDOS as a whole of 0.7% between 2022 and 2046. This would result in a population of 112,834 in the RDOS region by 2046, or an increase of approximately 18,963 new residents. These figures do not include population numbers for on-reserve First Nation communities in the South Okanagan (Penticton Indian Band and Osoyoos Indian Band).

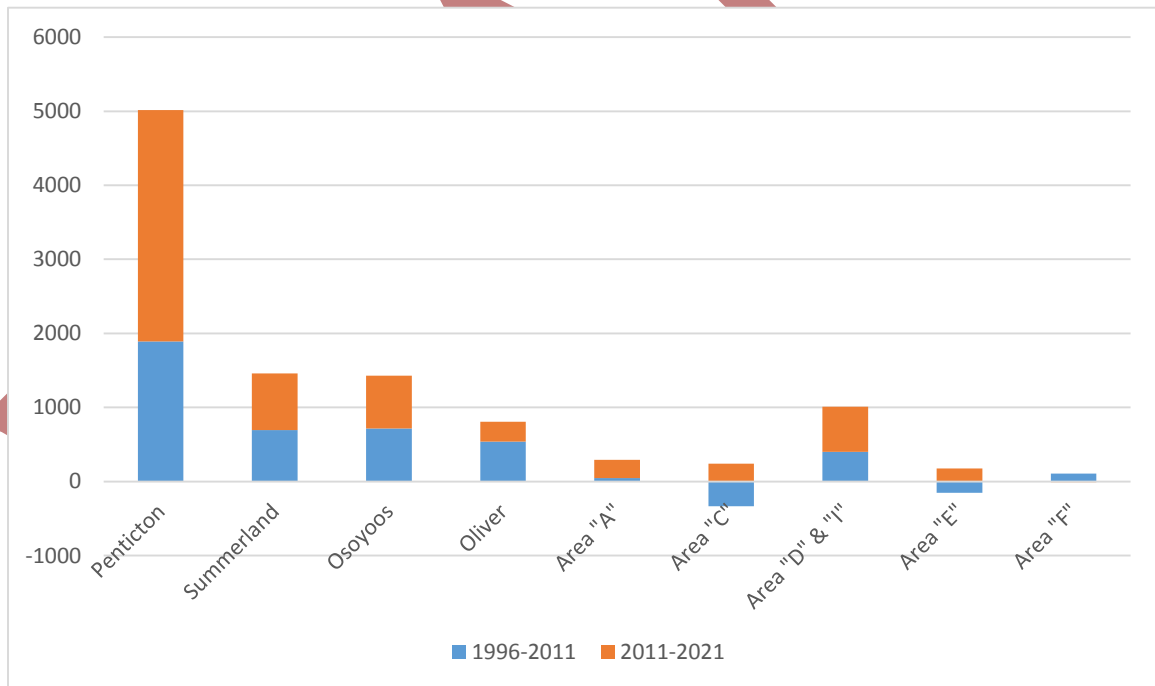


**Figure 1:** RDOS and RGS population estimates and projections

Figure 2 illustrates the change in population groups for the region from 2006 to 2021 and shows movement patterns among the population. The data suggests that a number of individuals in the 14 to 24 age group are leaving the region (potentially to attend school), while a number of young adults (ages 25 to 39) are arriving. It also suggests that there has been *significant* movement into the area by people aged 55+, likely reflecting the appeal of the South Okanagan as a retirement destination.

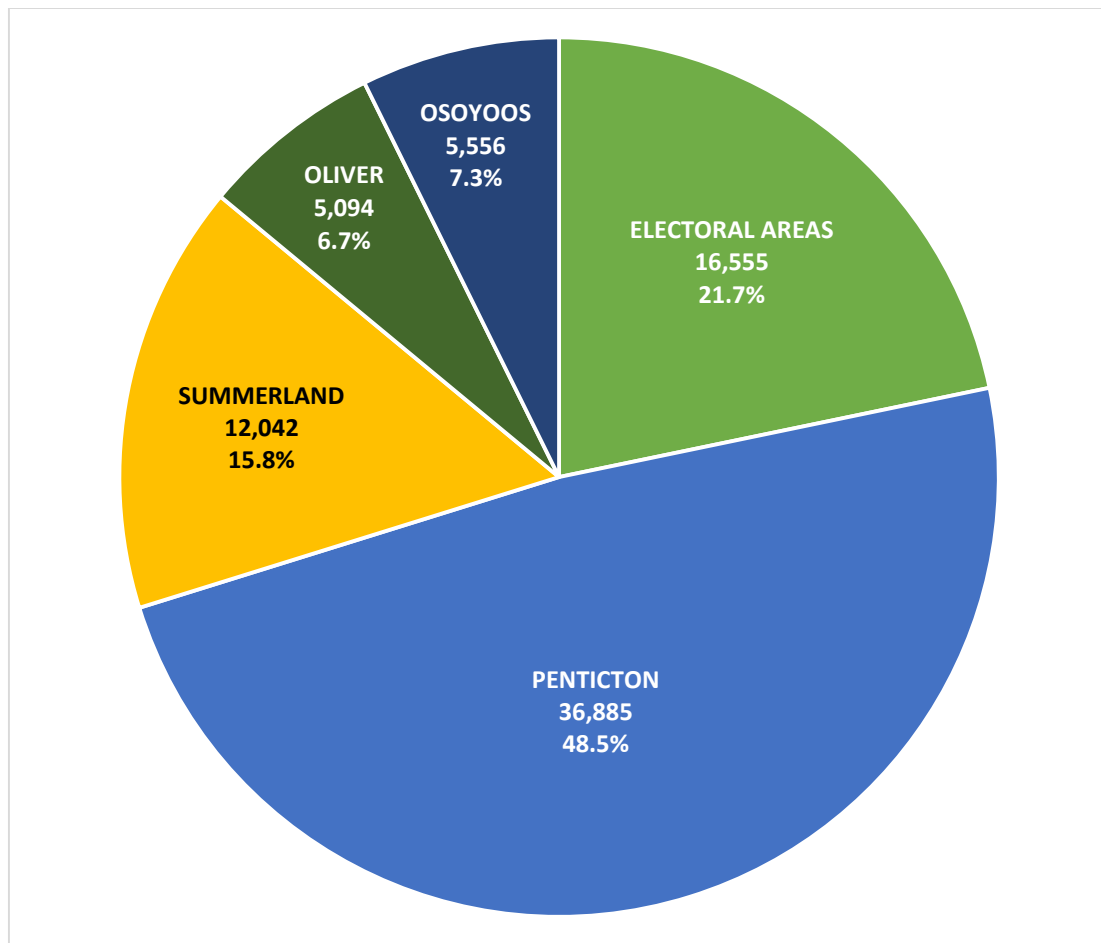


**Figure 2:** RDOS net change by age group, 2006 to 2021



**Figure 3:** 25-Year Growth by area, 1996 to 2021

The South Okanagan continues to urbanize, with Penticton making up approximately 48.5% of the population and 49.9% of growth from 1996 to 2021. Whereas, the Electoral Area populations increased during the same time period by approximately 1,334 residents (13.3%).



**Figure 4:** RGS Area, population by sub-region, 2021

- (v) replacing Goal 1 under the sub-section entitled “Strategy”, on page 15 of the bylaw in its entirety with the following:

**Goal 1:** Focus development in designated Growth Areas.

- (vi) deleting Map 2 (Existing Settlement Areas) and Map 3 (Designated Regional Growth Strategy Primary and Rural Growth Areas) in their entirety and renumbering all subsequent Maps.

- (vii) replacing the sub-section entitled “Housing and Development”, commencing on page 18 of the bylaw in its entirety with the following:

#### **HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT**

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**Goal 1:** *Focus development in designated Growth Areas.*

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The South Okanagan is composed of diverse and distinct settlement areas that range in size, type (i.e., urban to rural), and predominant uses (e.g. resort, residential to rural-residential).

As a guiding principle, land use decisions should take into account the broader values and needs of South Okanagan residents and the surrounding environment. The South Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) recognizes that each community's land use decisions can have long-term consequences on social health, ecosystem function, and the local economy.

Compact urban development and the protection of the integrity of rural areas, including agricultural and ecologically sensitive lands, is one of the chief means of supporting economic, ecological and community health. It also allows for the efficient operation of infrastructure and services to communities.

The most recent Housing Needs Assessment also identified that housing needs are most significant in the region's larger population centres, being the incorporated municipalities.

This is why the RGS generally directs development to incorporated municipalities of Penticton, Summerland, Osoyoos, Oliver and Okanagan Falls (see Schedule 'B' - Growth Management Map) in recognition that these are locations where the necessary services, infrastructure and amenities are in place to meet and accommodate the needs of future growth.

Prior to the adoption of the RGS in 2010, approximately 89% of residential growth in the South Okanagan between 2001 and 2011 occurred within incorporated municipalities. Following the adoption of the RGS, this figure declined to 85.9% between 2011 and 2021, partly due to the historic zoning adopted by the Regional District Board in previous decades.

A revised objective of the RGS is to realize 95% of new residential growth within designated "Growth Areas" by 2031, which will be measured by tracking population growth in the municipalities and Electoral Areas based on federal census data.

Outside of the designated "Growth Areas" are a number of other land use classifications shown on the Growth Management Map that include:

- Resort Areas
- Rural Residential Areas
- Agricultural Areas
- Radio Astronomy Research Area
- Village Settlement Areas
- Rural Areas
- Resource Area and Open Space Areas

Future development and provisioning of community infrastructure (e.g. water and sewer) may be limited in these areas but some resource, industrial, public and commercial uses may be considered appropriate. The approval of new water and sewer utilities under private ownership will be discouraged and liability

considerations will be reviewed as part of any transfer to public ownership. A description of all these land use classifications is included below:

## GROWTH AREAS

Growth Areas are urban centres identified for existing and future urban growth and contain a full range of commercial, institutional, and industrial land uses and all of the necessary infrastructure services and amenities to accommodate sustainable future growth.

Currently designated Growth Areas include the City of Penticton, District of Summerland, Town of Osoyoos, Town of Oliver and the District Municipality of Okanagan Falls.

For clarity, lands designated as a “Growth Area” on Schedule ‘B’ of this bylaw are not an “urban containment boundary” for the purposes of Section 481.3 of the *Local Government Act*. An “urban containment boundary” is to be established by an official community plan of a local government and may differ from the “Growth Area” shown on Schedule ‘B’ of this bylaw.

### Objective

- 1-A Growth Areas function as the economic and social hubs of the South Okanagan.**

### Supporting Policies

- 1A-1** That land use and infrastructure decisions support 95% of residential growth occurring between 2026 and 2036 is within designated Growth Areas.
- 1A-2** That services, amenities and infrastructure be focused within Growth Areas to allow for the majority of urban growth – residential, commercial, institutional and industrial – to be accommodated in these locations.
- 1A-3** That urban containment boundaries for the City of Penticton, District of Summerland, Town of Osoyoos, Town of Oliver and District Municipality of Okanagan Falls be established in each respective community’s Official Community Plan Bylaw.
- 1A-4** That the re-development of lands in an electoral area that are adjacent to or nearby an incorporated municipality be discouraged.
- 1A-5** That municipal boundary extensions be considered a regional issue requiring the support of participating members at the Regional District Board.

## RESORT AREAS

Resort Areas are small resort-based communities offering a mix of commercial

services, institutional uses, tourism accommodations, and diverse housing options, ranging from low to high-density. Such communities have generally been settled as a result of a nearby recreation area and are serviced with limited water and sewer systems.

Apex Mountain Resort is currently the only designated Resort Area in the Regional Growth Strategy. While the Town of Osoyoos is considered a “Resort Municipality”, it is currently designated as a “Growth Area” rather than a “Resort Area” in this bylaw.

For clarity, a Resort Area is equivalent to a designated “Growth Area” at Schedule ‘B’ to this bylaw and, in accordance with Section 481.3 of the *Local Government Act*, shall be delineated by an “urban containment boundary” established by an official community plan of a local government.

### Objective

- 1-B To support the development of land designated Resort Areas as year-round resort destinations.**

### Supporting Policies

- 1B-1** That an urban containment boundary for a Resort Area be established in the applicable Official Community Plan Bylaw.
- 1B-2** That the development of a new Master Development Agreement between Apex Mountain Resort and the provincial government to allow for future ski area and resort expansion is supported.
- 1B-3** That Apex Mountain Resort collaborating with the Penticton Indian Band, Lower Similkameen Indian Band and Upper Similkameen Indian Band regarding any proposed expansion of the resort is supported.
- 1B-4** That the provision of community services, such as water, sewer and fire protection to all lands designated Resort Area under this Bylaw is supported.
- 1B-5** That consideration will be given to the application of the Resort Area designation to new sites subject to the completion of the Provincial Governments All-Season Resort Application process as outlined in the All Seasons Resort Policy.
- 1B-6** That a review of this Regional Growth Strategy for consistency with any new or expanded resort use(s) approved by the Provincial government be considered.

## VILLAGE SETTLEMENT AREAS



Village Settlement Areas are generally historic communities that were established to serve as the local hub for surrounding agricultural land development in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, but were never incorporated. There are currently three Village Settlement Areas which include Naramata, Kaleden and Gallagher Lake.

These areas have retained a village-like character and offer a very limited mix of commercial and institutional uses, with generally low-density housing options. However, Gallagher Lake differs from the other Village Settlement Areas, as it emerged in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century to cater to post-war car culture and highway-based tourism.

The level of servicing in a Village Settlement Area is varied but generally includes a limited community water service. In the case of Gallagher Lake, a limited community sewer service exists. (a “limited service” is one that has not yet been extended to the entirety of the Village Settlement Area).

While existing services can be improved or extended *within* a Village Settlement Area to support modest infill development, such services should not be extended *beyond* the boundary of a Village Settlement Area as shown on Schedule ‘B’ and new services (e.g. community sewer systems) should not be introduced.

## Objective

- 1-C To maintain the small-town character of Village Settlement Areas by limiting the provision of housing, services, and amenities.**

## Supporting Policies

- 1C-1** That development in Village Settlement Areas be limited by restricting the introduction of new infrastructure, such as a community sewer system.
- 1C-2** That service containment boundaries for Naramata, Kaleden and Gallagher Lake be established in the applicable official community plan bylaw(s) to protect surrounding landscapes from rural-sprawl and fragmentation.
- 1C-3** That the expansion of Village Settlement Areas beyond existing boundaries established in the respective official community plan bylaw(s) is not supported.
- 1C-4** That the improvement of *existing* community services, such as water, sewer and fire protection is supported within Village Settlement Areas.
- 1C-5** That the introduction of new community services, such as sewer is not supported within Village Settlement Areas.
- 1C-6** That the extension of water services to lands outside of Village Settlement Areas that are in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is supported provided the water service has capacity and is to be used for agricultural purposes.

- 1C-7** That existing primary school facilities within Village Settlement Areas be maintained as essential parts of a community.
- 1C-8** That industrial development be discouraged in Village Settlement Areas and directed to designated Growth Areas or the Osoyoos Indian Band's Senkulmen Business Park.
- 1C-9** That small-scale commercial opportunities be supported within Village Settlement Areas.
- 1C-10** That a range of low-density housing types and tenures be supported to meet the needs of residents, subject to servicing.

## **RURAL-RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The Rural-Residential designation has primarily been applied to lands that have previously been subdivided into relatively small parcels outside of a municipality or surveyed townsite that are serviced with community water and/or sewer.

The predominant form of housing is single detached dwelling but other forms of housing can occur, subject to servicing requirements.

Examples of Rural-Residential areas include Willow Beach, Willowbrook, Heritage Hills, Skaha Estates, Faulder, West Bench, Greata Ranch, Twin Lakes and St. Andrews, and Lakeshore Highlands.

Lands designated as Rural-Residential may be capable of accommodating a modest amount of future rural-residential growth, subject to the provision of community water and sewer, and absence of other constraining factors, without being inconsistent with this bylaw.

### **Objective**

- 1-D** **To maintain rural-residential areas by limiting development to low density residential forms in areas with existing services, infrastructure and amenities.**

### **Supporting Policies**

- 1D-1** That rezoning lands classified as Rural-Residential Area beyond densities established in the respective Official Community Plans is discouraged.
- 1D-2** That the rural, low-density character of Rural-Residential Areas be maintained.
- 1D-3** That consideration of new development in Rural-Residential be limited to lands where existing servicing capacity can support development.

- 1D-4** That the expansion of the Rural Residential Area classification beyond existing boundaries established in this Regional Growth Strategy is discouraged.

## RURAL AREAS

Rural Areas are characterized by moderately sized parcels (e.g. between 1.0 ha and 8.0 ha in area) that are provided with on-site services (e.g. groundwater well and septic). These areas typically feature a single principal dwelling and are characterized by a landscape of forest, grassland or agricultural usage. Community services are limited, often to solid waste collection and fire protection, though these may not be available in all instances.

Examples of Rural Areas include Regal Ridge, Kilpoola, Vaseux Lake, Upper Carmi, Falcon Ridge, Prairie Valley, Meadow Valley, Farleigh Lake, Indian Rock, and Green Mountain Road.

Lands designated as Rural Areas are generally unsuitable for increased residential redevelopment.

### Objective

- 1-E** To preserve the rural character of lands designated as Rural Areas.

### Supporting Policies

- 1E-1** That lands designated Rural Area are to remain un-serviced (e.g. community water or sewer services are not to be extended to such lands).
- 1E-2** That the rezoning of lands designated Rural Area is discouraged in order to avoid rural-sprawl and extension of community services.
- 1E-3** That the development of lands designated Rural Area beyond densities established in the respective Official Community Plans is discouraged.

## AGRICULTURAL AREAS

Agriculture Area means lands predominantly used for agriculture and lands identified as part of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), including non-farm uses approved by the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) in accordance with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and *Agricultural Land Commission Use Regulation*.

As of 2025, approximately 13.37% of the land base in the South Okanagan is within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

### Objective

**1-F To protect the agricultural land base.**

**Supporting Policies**

- 1F-1** That lands designated as Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) under the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* should not be included within a growth containment boundary.
- 1F-2** That the extension of water services to lands in the Agricultural Land Reserve is supported only when the water service has capacity and is to be used for agricultural purposes.
- 1F-3** That, despite 1F-2, the provision of water to residential parcels along a serviced line in the ALR is supported provided Official Community Plan policies and zoning regulations are in place to prevent further subdivision or an increase in permitted residential densities.
- 1F-4** That the extension of sewer services to lands in the Agricultural Land Reserve is not supported.
- 1F-5** That municipal boundary extensions should not include lands in the Agricultural Land Reserve.
- 1F-6** That the subdivision of lands in the Agricultural Land Reserve is generally discouraged.
- 1F-7** That minimum parcel size requirements for subdivision in agricultural zones be explored as a regional project to determine if larger parcels sizes are necessary to protect the agricultural land base and uses.
- 1F-8** That the development of a Regional Agriculture Strategy for the South Okanagan as a regional project is supported.
- 1F-9** That value-added agricultural activities that improve farm economic viability, including agri-tourism activities and accommodations is supported.
- 1F-10** That efforts to minimize conflicts between farm and non-farm uses through edge planning is supported.

**RESOURCE AREA & OPEN SPACE AREAS**

As of 2025, approximately 82.3% of the land base in the South Okanagan is comprised of Crown land that is not only a major source of timber but also comprises various community watersheds, Provincial Parks and Protected Areas, environmentally sensitive habitat, ranching and grazing land, natural resource extraction, independent power production and recreation opportunities.

Some Resource Area lands are also privately held and can comprise large parcels, sometimes in the form of District Lots and occasionally without direct access to a publicly dedicated road.

### Objective

- 1-G To retain Resource Area and Open Space Areas for natural resource extraction .**

### Supporting Policies

- 1G-1** That lands designated Resource Area and Open Space Areas are to remain un-serviced (e.g. community water or sewer services are not to be extended to such lands).
- 1G-2** That a review of minimum parcel size requirements for subdivision in resource area zones is supported as a regional project to determine if larger parcels sizes are required to protect the land base for extensive uses (e.g. forestry, grazing or rangelands, natural resource extraction, conservation land, etc.).
- 1G-3** That a review of the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw for consistency with any National Park Reserve proposal approved by the Federal Government for the South Okanagan is supported.
- 1G-4** That supportive zoning be applied to designated community watersheds under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, to maintain and manage local water quality and quantity.

## RADIO ASTRONOMY RESEARCH AREA

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory (DRAO) is the only research facility of its kind in Canada and a significant contributor to the regional economy that also provides critical ongoing contributions to national and international research initiatives.

The successful operation of the Observatory is, however, dependent on sources of Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) being minimized within the lines-of sight of its radio-telescope equipment.

Radio Astronomy Research Area Land is identifies as Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory Radio Frequency Interference Area within the Electoral Area “C” and “D” Official Community Plan Bylaws.

### Objective

- 1-H To minimize the levels of Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) on the operation of the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory (DRAO).**

## Supporting Policies

- 1H-1** That objectives, policies and regulations be included in the Electoral Area “C” & “I” Official Community Plans and applicable zoning bylaw to prevent the creation of additional development or intensification of development within lands designated as Radio Astronomy Research Area under this bylaw.
  - 1H-2** That proposals seeking to introduce new land use categories other than Agriculture or Resource Area and Open Space within the area designated as Radio Astronomy Research Area should be considered inconsistent with this Regional Growth Strategy.
  - 1H-3** That the Federal government and conservation organizations are encouraged to acquire lands designated Radio Astronomy Research Area and retaining these in a state that will either reduce or not result in an increase in RFI.
  - 1H-4** Where Radio Astronomy Research Area overlaps with other settlement categories or lands are only partially within the Radio Astronomy Research Area, the land use policies for the Radio Astronomy Research Area shall take precedence.
- (viii) replacing Section 2A-5 under Goal 2 (Protect the health and biodiversity of ecosystems in the South Okanagan) in its entirety with the following:
- 2A-5** Respect and protect the ecosystem and environment by directing urban type development to designated Growth Areas.
- (ix) replacing Section 3A-2 under Goal 3 (Support efficient, effective and affordable infrastructure services and an accessible multi-modal transportation network) in its entirety with the following:
- 3A-2** Direct new development to designated Growth Areas to provide more cost-effective infrastructure, facilities, and services.
- (x) replacing Section 3B-5 under Goal 3 (Support efficient, effective and affordable infrastructure services and an accessible multi-modal transportation network) in its entirety with the following:
- 3B-5** Supports sewer service within Growth Areas and Resort Areas where such services are not currently available.
- (xi) Adding a new Section 3B-7 under Goal 3 (Support efficient, effective and affordable infrastructure services and an accessible multi-modal transportation network) to read as follows:

- 3B-7** Consider extension of sewer service in extenuating circumstances related to environmental cleanup to minimize the environmental impact.
- (xii) replacing Section 3D-3 under Goal 3 (Support efficient, effective and affordable infrastructure services and an accessible multi-modal transportation network) in its entirety with the following:
- 3D-3** Supports the development of an integrated activate transportation (cycling, walking, scooters, etc.) network and connections in designated Growth Areas, Village Settlement Areas and Resort Areas.
- (xiii) replacing Section 3D-4 under Goal 3 (Support efficient, effective and affordable infrastructure services and an accessible multi-modal transportation network) in its entirety with the following:
- 3D-4** Work with the Province to further develop a regional active transportation network with connections between designated Growth Areas, Village Settlement Areas and Resort Areas in conjunction with highway improvements.
- (xiv) replacing Section 3D-6 under Goal 3 (Support efficient, effective and affordable infrastructure services and an accessible multi-modal transportation network) in its entirety with the following:
- 3D-6** Work with partners, including BC Transit, to identify potential community transit hubs in designated Growth Areas, Village Settlement Areas and Resort Areas.
- (xv) adding a new Section 3D-7 under Goal 3 (Support efficient, effective and affordable infrastructure services and an accessible multi-modal transportation network) to read as follows:
- 3D-7** Encourage well-connected, accessible transportation networks that reduce GHG emissions, by supporting alternate and active transportation modes within and between both the region’s designated Growth Areas, Village Settlement Areas and Resort Areas.
- (xvi) replacing the sub-section entitled “Energy Emissions and Climate Change”, commencing on page 37 of the bylaw in its entirety with the following:

## **CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTION**

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**Goal 7:** *Reduce energy emissions and ensure the South Okanagan is prepared for a changing climate.*

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The scientific community has reached consensus that the increasing emissions of human-caused greenhouse gases (GHGs) are rapidly changing the earth's climate. Greenhouse gases refer to any or all of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydro fluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride and any other substance prescribed by regulation.

Globally, the impacts of climate change will be significant, and are already evident in some areas. Locally, the potential impacts and vulnerabilities are less well documented; however, they are a growing concern.

As one of 187 local governments that are signatory to the B.C. Climate Action Charter, the RDOS along with the City of Penticton, District of Summerland, Town of Osoyoos and Town of Oliver are committed to reducing GHGs and has agreed to take actions to achieve certain goals. Under the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, B.C.'s GHG emissions are to be reduced by at least 40% below 2007 levels by 2030, at least 60% below 2007 levels by 2040 and by at least 80% by 2050. The three areas where local government can play a role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions are in the transportation, waste management and building sectors.

The three Okanagan regional districts commissioned a climate change report to assist in medium- and long-term planning. The February 2020 report, termed *Climate Change for the Okanagan Region*, provided information on anticipated climate change for the medium-term future (2050s) and the long-term future (2080s).

In the past, the Okanagan region experienced just under a week per year, on average, of days above 30°C. By the 2050s, the region can expect an average of over three weeks above 30°C per year and over five weeks per year by the 2080s. The valley bottoms are projected to experience the greatest changes, with approximately 50 additional days above 30°C projected by the 2080s, compared to the past.

In the past, the coldest winter night for the Okanagan region was about -25°C. By the 2050s, the coldest night is expected to warm by 6°C to -19°C, and by the 2080s, temperatures are projected to warm by 10°C to -15°C. While the coldest night is projected to warm in all seasons, the coldest night in winter is projected to warm more rapidly than other seasons.

The largest precipitation increases are expected to occur during the spring and autumn months with between 10% and 20% more precipitation during these seasons by the 2080s. Summer will remain the driest season and become even drier. By the 2080s, the region can expect about one quarter less precipitation than in the past. Natural year-to-year variation could result in some years experiencing extended periods without (or with low) precipitation.

For the Okanagan as a whole, climate change is anticipated to cause far-reaching impacts and generate new risks. This includes heat waves and droughts and



reduced precipitation, combined with warmer summer temperatures, which will likely result in the depletion of water resources, loss of wetlands, stress on local fisheries, and depletion of aquatic species. Warmer winters will on average result in less snow accumulation on the valley uplands, reducing water availability and increasing the need for water storage. Groundwater and aquifer recharge will also be compromised as drought conditions increase. In addition, warmer temperatures will enhance the potential for invasive species, pests, and pathogens across the region. Extreme events such as flooding, wildfires, and landslides will increase in intensity.

Inter-jurisdictional collaboration is necessary to mitigate the impacts of climate change and to make efforts to adapt to the change in weather and environmental conditions.

## Objective

**7-A Plan for climate change adaption and support ongoing mitigation efforts.**

## Supporting Policies

- 7A-1** That regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions be reduced by 80% below 2007 levels by 2050.
- 7A-2** That a green building policy be developed for local government buildings.
- 7A-3** That local businesses be encouraged to adopt and apply green energy technologies and energy efficiency practices.
- 7A-4** That the agricultural industry be encouraged to adopt and apply green energy technologies and energy efficiency practices.
- 7A-5** That the federal and provincial governments be encouraged to extend and expand rebate programs for energy efficient and water conservation fixtures and appliances.
- 7A-6** That climate change adaptation and the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in existing and proposed activities and development is supported.
- 7A-7** That public awareness and education on climate change and its current and likely potential future impacts in the region be encouraged.

(xvii) replacing the row entitled “Housing and Development” under Figure 6 (RGS indicators and Measures) in its entirety with the following:

Policy Area/Goal	Indicator	Measure
<b>Housing and Development:</b> Focus development in designated Growth Areas	Growth containment	% of housing starts in growth areas and resort areas
	Agricultural land protection	Hectares change to ALR, mapped

	Housing affordability	Median home price
		Affordability ratio: Median salary to median home price
		% of people who spend more than 30% of their income on accommodation.
	Housing diversity/ choice	# of new homes by type

(xviii) replacing paragraph 1 under the sub-heading entitled “Major Amendments” on page 42 in its entirety with the following:

Where proposals substantially change the vision and direction of the RGS, a major amendment to the RGS, subject to the acceptance of all affected local governments is required. This could include:

- the addition of one or more new Growth Areas, Village Settlement Areas, or Resort Areas;
- the introduction of significant residential development areas outside of existing designated or Growth Areas, Village Settlement Areas, or Resort Areas; or
- proposals seeking to introduce new land use categories other than Agriculture or Resource Area and Open Space within the area designated as Radio Astronomy Research Area.

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2026.

PUBLIC HEARING held on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2026.

READ A THIRD TIME this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2026.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate Officer

# Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

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Amendment Bylaw No. 2770.02, 2026

File No. X2021.001-RGS

Schedule 'A'

**Schedule 'B'**  
**(Growth Management Map)**

**DRAFT**