

POLICY

WHEREAS THE POLICIES OF THE DISTRICT'S OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (OCP) SUPPORT THE REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY BY KEEPING URBAN SETTLEMENT COMPACT; AND,

WHEREAS THE OCP STATES THAT EXTENSION OF WATER LINES INTO RURAL OR AGRICULTURAL AREAS IS NOT SUPPORTED, EXCEPT TO ADDRESS PRESSING PUBLIC HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, OR TO PROVIDE WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL OR FIRE SUPPRESSION USES;

THEREFORE COUNCIL HAS ENDORSED THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA THAT SHOULD BE MET FOR ANY REQUEST TO EXTEND WATER SERVICES INTO RURAL OR AGRICULTURAL AREAS:

A. EXTENSION OF WATER LINES TO ADDRESS PRESSING PUBLIC HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WOULD REQUIRE THAT A "PRESSING PUBLIC HEALTH NEED" BE DEMONSTRATED BY THE FOLLOWING:

1. The service is required to meet community health needs, based on: water quantity and quality documentation created via studies at the wellhead, of all well water within the community where problems are reported, over the period of one year by a professional hydrogeologist, appointed by the District, and supervised by a water quality team, including members of the District, the Regional Water Commission, the CRD, and members of the public appointed to municipal water committees and the regional commission.
2. Documentation must be provided showing at least a twenty-five percent failure of wells where test results over time indicate well water is hazardous, and (a) is deemed "unfit for human consumption" under the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality published by Health Canada, and (b) considered "untreatable" for the elements which make it unfit for consumption under GCDWQ guidelines.
3. Full documentation must be reviewed by and supported by a letter from the Chief Medical Health Officer (CMHO), stating:
 - a. agreement with the documented failure rate of wells, expressed as a percentage of homes within the study community
 - b. that water from wells is "unfit for human consumption" according to tests (appended to the letter), and clearly demonstrate a hazard to human health.
 - c. that thorough documented studies (appended to the letter) have shown the water to be untreatable.
4. The documentation must be subjected to an open discussion and review by the water infrastructure team and the public, in a forum to allow critical commentary and response.

B. EXTENSION OF WATER LINES FOR AGRICULTURE WOULD REQUIRE SUPPORT FROM THE PENINSULA AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION (PAC), SUBMISSION OF A PROFESSIONAL AGROLOGIST'S REPORT, PROVISION BY THE OWNER OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN DETAILING THE EXISTING AND PROPOSED CROP PRODUCTION INCLUDING CONFIRMATION THAT THE LAND IS RECEIVING FARM ASSESSMENT STATUS.

C. EXTENSION OF WATER LINES FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION WOULD REQUIRE INFORMATION SUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT THE EXTENSION BEING DEEMED TO BE IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY INTEREST BY COUNCIL. IN ADDITION, ALL WATER LINE EXTENSIONS MUST BE MADE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DISTRICT'S FIRE CHIEF, TO ENSURE MAXIMUM BENEFIT OF ALL REQUESTED WATER LINE EXTENSION(S) TOWARDS RESOLVING EXTENSIVE FIRE INTERFACE RISKS.

(Council resolutions 1032.08 & 1035.08; September 15, 2008)