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[WFP Lands Deleted from TFL 25 — Sooke to Port Renfrew](#)

[Vantreight Lands — Central Saanich](#)

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[Articles & Media Reprints](#)

[Research Library](#)

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[Search](#)

[Site Map](#)

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# Watermain Extension Outside Urban Containment Boundary — Central Saanich

## Overview

Central Saanich is currently proposing to change its Official Community Plan so that piped water service can be extended outside of the Urban Containment Boundary.

Central Saanich, along with all the other municipalities in the Capital Region, signed onto the Regional Growth Strategy five years ago. The Regional Growth Strategy is a plan to ensure that development in the region takes place in appropriate areas, minimizing urban sprawl and preserving critical regional assets such as farm land, rural areas, and green spaces, while allowing for focused, well-planned growth.

Each municipality defines its role in the Regional Growth Strategy through a document called its Regional Context Statement, which forms a part of its Official Community Plan. A municipality's Official Community Plan (OCP) guides all land-use decisions in the municipality; by Provincial law, a municipality is not permitted to pass bylaws that go against its OCP.

Central Saanich's Official Community Plan states in its first paragraphs that: " The fundamental philosophy of this plan is to retain, protect and enhance the current rural-small village character of Central Saanich, its agricultural land base and environmentally sensitive areas while allowing for modest, gradual, low-impact growth within existing Residential-Settlement areas. "

## Latest Updates

### **RPS Opposes Central Saanich Initiative to Extend Watermain Outside of UCB**

**Sep 15, 2008** Central Saanich is currently proposing to change its Official Community Plan so that piped water service can be extended outside of the Urban Containment Boundary. RPS Director Vicky Husband spoke to Central Saanich Council about the reasons this is a bad idea from a regional planning perspective. [Details...](#)

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The Central Saanich Regional Context Statement supports this vision with the statement “ The District does not extend urban services such as the sewer and water system into the rural or agricultural areas. ”

The Regional Planning Society applauds and supports the responsible sustainability objectives and roles that Central Saanich has defined for itself in these documents. Until now, Central Saanich has had an exemplary record of sound planning and decision-making based on those values.

The present proposal, to allow the extension of piped water and/or sewer services outside of the Urban Containment Boundary, is very much contrary to these values, and would be a serious blow to sound, sustainable regional planning. It would support dense development outside the Urban Containment Boundary, and it would send the message that regional planning values, goals and rules don't really matter all that much — they can be changed on a piecemeal basis, without referring to the the greater good of the region.

Last updated 14 Sep 2008.

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