



The Board Reports

Regional District of Central Okanagan
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Highlights of the Regional Board Meeting– September 29, 2003

Trepanier Connector Access

The Regional Board has approved District involvement in constructing ramps connecting Highway 97 C and Trepanier Bench Road. The Regional District will contribute up to \$64,000 and another \$34,000 in kind contributions towards construction of the on-off ramps. The District of Peachland has committed \$135,000 towards the project. Staff from the District Engineering Department and Peachland will manage the construction project. Gravel ramps should be ready by the end of the year with paving to be completed next spring.

Exotic Animals Bylaw Approved

The Regional Board has approved a new bylaw that prohibits the keeping of animals that are primarily not native to the region or are considered to be wild. Animals belonging to 23 different species, along with wildlife and those already banned by Provincial and Federal laws, are prohibited from the Central Okanagan. Residents who already own such animals like exotic snakes, alligators and crocodiles, will be permitted to keep them as long as they are securely kept, not used for educational or entertainment purposes and are kept from reproducing. The bylaw will be enforced by complaint in the Westside Electoral Area, City of Kelowna and District of Peachland.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Permit

The Regional Board has approved an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Development Permit for Gorman Brothers Lumber. The Board also supports the company's application to the province for a 10-year license to remove sand and gravel on property just north and west of the junction of Highway 97C and Highway 97 South. The ESA designation ensures the protection of environmentally sensitive features that have been identified in the proposed quarry area. The Board is concerned the license was granted before it dealt with the application. Regional District staff will raise the issue with the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Westside APC's Reorganized

The Regional Board has adopted changes to the Bylaw governing the Advisory Planning Commissions (APC) on the Westside. The move to three at large Directors and creation of one Westside Electoral area has brought a need to reorganize the existing Planning Commissions, creating a combined APC for the Southern portion of the area. The new Advisory Planning Commission should be in place by November. Potential members will be sought during October.

Building Permits Strong

Single-family house construction continues to fuel building in the two Electoral Areas and in Peachland. The Regional District Inspection Services department approved 74 building permits during August for projects valued at \$5.1 million. Of that almost \$4.9 million was for new homes. So far this year, there have been 653 building permits issued on projects worth more than \$50.3 million. That's 85 more projects and \$10.3 million more than the first eight months of 2002.

Next Regional Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Board will be Monday October 6, 2003 at 7 pm in the Woodhaven Room at the Regional District office, 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna.

The Board Report is a bi-weekly publication of the Regional District of Central Okanagan. The Regional Board meets every second Monday night at the RDCO at 1450 KLO Road. The public is welcome to attend.

For copies of this publication or more information contact

Bruce Smith, Communications Coordinator
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