

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2019



### **Board adopts bylaw to regulate dumping of soil in Cowichan Valley**

**Duncan, BC** – The adoption of a new soil deposit bylaw will enable the Cowichan Valley Regional District to regulate the movement of earth and natural soils in the region.

CVRD Bylaw No. 4236, Soil Deposit Bylaw, 2018, was adopted unanimously by the CVRD Board of Directors yesterday at its Regular Board Meeting. The bylaw establishes a permitting process for the deposit of soil, and is intended to protect streams and other environmentally sensitive features and landscapes. The unauthorized importation of contaminated soil, and damage to agricultural land and drainage systems, among other things, continue to be of concern to CVRD residents and board members alike.

“The unregulated dumping of soil within our electoral areas has been a priority issue for a number of years. This much anticipated and broadly supported bylaw assures residents that appropriate oversight of these activities will take place in the Cowichan Valley, just like in many other municipalities and regional districts in British Columbia,” said Ian Morrison, Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. “Our staff will continue the work with industry groups and other relevant stakeholders, and evaluate the effectiveness of this bylaw as it is implemented and enforced in the coming months.”

The CVRD began the process of drafting this bylaw in early 2017, which included significant public and stakeholder engagement. The bylaw establishes a three-tiered system of permitting, and requires anyone wishing to deposit soil on a property within the CVRD’s nine electoral areas to apply for permit. Permitting exemptions are included for a variety of small scale deposits, such as residential landscaping and sewerage works. Initially permits will only be required by third-tier Type ‘C’ applicants who wish to deposit over 1000 cubic metres annually.

“As with any new regulatory regime, we want to ensure it is administered in a fair and respectful manner with minimal adverse impacts,” said Ian MacDonald, Acting Manager, Inspections and Enforcement for the CVRD. “We won’t require residents engaging in Type ‘A’ and ‘B’ to obtain permits in 2019. However, anyone depositing soil of any amount should familiarize themselves with the bylaw as all the prohibitions within it are still applicable and enforceable.”

The soil deposit bylaw has an enforcement grace period, as per the complimentary CVRD policy adopted at the same Board meeting. Type ‘C’ applicants who can prove they are currently engaged in soil deposit activities will be able to continue as they move through the application and permitting process. The CVRD recently hired a Soil Deposit Bylaw Enforcement Officer who will be responsible for administration and enforcement of the bylaw going forward.

The bylaw and associated permit application forms are available on the CVRD website at <https://www.cvrld.bc.ca/soil>. The CVRD has also established a Soil Deposit Hotline at 250.746.2646 or [soils@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:soils@cvrd.bc.ca) for residents to inquire about soil deposit activities and report potential infractions.

- 30 -

*For more information, please contact:*

Ian MacDonald  
Acting Manager, Building Inspection and Bylaw Enforcement  
250.746.2606  
[ian.macdonald@cprd.bc.ca](mailto:ian.macdonald@cprd.bc.ca)