

## News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2026

### **Community Engagement Regarding the Draft CVRD Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw**

**Duncan, BC** – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) wants residents to know that community engagement is planned for the draft Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw that was released earlier this month.

The CVRD has been working since 2018 to harmonize and modernize seven different Electoral Area Official Community Plans (OCPs) and seven different Electoral Area Zoning Bylaws.

The seven OCPs were consolidated in 2021, with a further update in 2025. Work to consolidate the seven different Zoning Bylaws has been ongoing since 2023, with the first phase of community engagement taking place in 2024.

During 2025, the CVRD developed the draft Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw (draft CZB), which was released in March 2026. Earlier this month, the draft CZB was introduced to the Electoral Area Services Committee, which is made up of all nine Electoral Area Directors and does not include Directors that represent municipalities within the regional district (as the CZB does not apply to these municipalities).

Community engagement on the draft CZB will take place over May and June, with open houses for the community to speak to staff, ask questions, and learn about how the draft CZB would impact them. There will also be a survey where residents can provide their feedback on the contents of the draft CZB.

"The draft CZB has generated a lot of interest, which is expected with a project of this scale," said CVRD Board Chair Kate Segall. "We want residents to know we're listening and that we care about getting this right. Open houses and other engagement activities are scheduled to start in May. This next phase is about making sure people can learn more about what is being proposed, can ask questions, and share feedback so we can shape a bylaw that works for communities across the Cowichan Valley."

Based on the level of interest in the draft CZB, staff will also be recommending to the Electoral Area Services Committee at their upcoming April 15 meeting that the engagement timeline be extended. The April 15 Electoral Area Services Committee agenda will include a staff report with a proposed updated timeline and approach for the Committee's consideration.

After the upcoming community engagement phase, the CVRD will consolidate and analyze the input received and consider how best to incorporate feedback into the next version of the draft CZB. The CVRD is committed to hearing from the community on the draft CZB and is pleased that so many residents are interested and engaged in this topic.

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### **For more information, please contact:**

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Background:

- The CVRD has been monitoring the community dialogue about the draft CZB and has posted issue-specific FAQs on the [CZB Plan Your Cowichan webpage](#) earlier today regarding the most common concerns that have been raised over the last week. [Draft CZB FAQ Sheet](#).
- There is a mapping tool on the draft [CZB Plan Your Cowichan webpage](#) where residents can learn about both their current zoning and proposed new zoning under the draft CZB.
- The draft CZB is separate from another project that is underway to develop Local Area Plans for Electoral Areas. Local Area Plans are focused on shaping growth within village areas of the Electoral Areas, and they include heritage sites and heritage candidate sites. There is distinct community engagement happening on the draft CZB and the Local Area Plans. Information about the Local Area Plan project is available on the [Plan Your Cowichan webpage](#).