

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2026

Electoral Area Planning Update

Duncan, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board met on May 27, 2026, to consider recommendations regarding various electoral area planning matters including Temporary Use Permits and the Official Community Plan.

Regarding Temporary Use Permits, the Board (electoral area directors), voted to:

- Advance a Temporary Use Permit bylaw, specifically for commercial and industrial uses, to the CVRD Board for consideration of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd reading on June 24, 2026. The Board's intention with commercial and industrial uses is to create a flexible, responsive way to support regional economic prosperity.
- Hold a public information meeting on commercial and industrial temporary use permits before the June 24, 2026, CVRD Board meeting.
- Direct staff to provide a report on a potential streamlined Temporary Use Permit for short-term rentals, including options for associated fees. The Board values short-term rentals and how they support our local tourism industry. Short-term rental enforcement is currently on a complaint-basis.
- Direct staff to provide a report on potential ways to engage the community related to possible Temporary Use Permit uses, including seasonal accommodation, short-term rentals, temporary worker housing, markets, and festivals.

Regarding the Official Community Plan, the Board voted to:

- Start the process for "CVRD Bylaw No. 4373 - Cowichan Valley Regional District Official Community Plan for the Electoral Areas Bylaw, 2024", to be repealed.
- Start the process to adopt a Harmonized Official Community Plan (OCP), based on the former OCP (Harmonized OCP Bylaw No. 4270).

The Electoral Area Service Committee will consider a report from staff on process, budget and timeline considerations, and direction must be confirmed by the Board, before the process of repealing the OCP can begin.

To learn more about the current OCP visit: planyourcowichan.ca/the-modernized-official-community-plan-mocp.

- [Schedule A – OCP Policies and Objectives](#) explains the vision and goals of the OCP and the land use designations and policies that support in detail.
- There is also a nine-page, high-level OCP Summary that highlights the extensive and multi-year public engagement process titled [Learn More 8 New Explainers](#).
- [The Ideas Book](#) is a living document that captures and celebrates the community's contributions to the OCP. It reports back to the community on how their ideas are reflected in the OCP.

To view CVRD Board and Committee meetings - including notices, agendas, minutes and video (live and recorded) visit: pub-cvrd.escribemeetings.com/. Once there, click on the date of the meeting you wish to review, and then select the details you would like to view. The recording of the [May 27, 2026, Board meeting](#) is now available.

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