

Summary of Public Input - Policy

Agricultural Policy & Regulations Best Practices Report

December 2023

Presented below are paraphrased questions received during the public input period (April 26 to July 12, 2023) on the Agricultural Policy & Regulations Best Practices report by Upland Consulting with respect to OCP policy only. There are other questions on zoning which will be addressed by a separate report from Community Planning.

The table provides the questions and responses pertaining to draft policy of the Official Community Plan for the Electoral Areas (OCP) Bylaw 4373.

Note that the policy recommendations from Upland Consulting Report have already been considered and incorporated in the draft OCP. One additional change to the OCP was made as a result of this public input received: Added – Establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

No further changes to draft OCP Bylaw 4373 agricultural policies are anticipated.

| Question | Response Draft OCP Policy |
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| Q1 Are there solar policies in the draft OCP that address our energy security needs for agriculture? | Yes. Addressed in draft OCP policy goal 1 – Mitigate & Adapt to the Climate Crisis. |
| Q2 Are there policies for Temporary Farm Worker Housing in the draft OCP? | Yes. Addressed in draft OCP policy goal 7 – Strengthen Local Food & Agriculture |
| Q3 Are there policies that encourage flexibility, diversification and generally support farming? Are there policies that recognize the significance of agricultural land? | Yes. Addressed in draft OCP policy goal 7 - Strengthen Local Food & Agriculture |
| Q4 Why are not all waterbodies shown on development permit areas mapping? | The CVRD does not have access to mapping that accurately maps all waterbodies. |

| Question | Response Draft OCP Policy |
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| Q5 Are there aquaculture policies in the OCP to protect local lakes and rivers? | Yes. Addressed in draft OCP policy goal 7 – Strengthen Local Food & Agriculture |
| Q6 Are there policies to protect agricultural land from growth? | Yes. Addressed in draft OCP Schedule G Growth Containment Boundary maps and section 1.6 Growth Containment policies |
| Q7 Are there policies to protect the Koksilah watershed? | Yes. Addressed in draft OCP policy goal 5 – Protect & Restore Natural Assets |
| Q8 Are there policies for secondary residences in the ALR? Are they consistent with the Agricultural Land Commission policies? | Yes. Addressed in draft OCP policy goal 7 – Strengthen Local Food & Agriculture Agricultural Land Commission Policies on Housing in the ALC: Residences in the ALR Residences in the ALR – FAQs Non-Adhering Residential Use Applications |
| Q9 Are the terms food & agriculture defined in the OCP? | The draft OCP does not include definitions, but the terms are not used interchangeably in the OCP. See draft OCP policy goal 7 – Strengthen Local Food & Agriculture. |
| Q10 Can the CVRD form an advisory committee of local farmers and agricultural experts to advise on agricultural policies and issues? | A policy has been added to the draft OCP to establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee. |
| Q11 Do policies in the draft OCP prioritize water as an essential resource to support agriculture? | Yes. Draft OCP policies address the protection of groundwater as an important resource to support agriculture. See draft OCP policy goal 7 – Strengthen Local Food & Agriculture. |
| Q12 | Yes. |

| Question | Response Draft OCP Policy |
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| Does the draft OCP support young people to get into farming? | See draft OCP policy goal 7 – Strengthen Local Food & Agriculture. |
| Q13 Does OCP policy support onsite processing, abattoir/slaughtering and composting as a fundamental part of farming? | Yes. See draft OCP policy goal 7 – Strengthen Local Food & Agriculture. |
| Q14 Does the draft OCP support the full range of processes required to grow, harvest and process a crop, including value added? | Yes. See draft OCP policy goal 7 – Strengthen Local Food & Agriculture. |
| Q15 Does the CVRD have policy on public education programs that encourage compliance and provide incentives to develop and implement environmental farm plans. | Yes. See draft OCP policy goal 7 – Strengthen Local Food & Agriculture. |
| Q16 Can the CVRD present policy (OCP) changes to farming community for review? | Draft OCP policies are available on PlanYourCowichan.ca . There was a community meeting scheduled for Sept 26, 2023 at the Cobble Hill Farmers Institute. |
| Q17 Does the CVRD policy support aging farmers to stay on their farms? | Yes. See draft OCP policy goal 7 – Strengthen Local Food & Agriculture. |
| Q18 Does CVRD have policy to reduce conflicts between farms and adjacent development, including effective buffers? | Yes. See draft OCP policy goal 7- Strengthen Local Food & Agriculture. |