

Bamfield Official Community Plan P1309 – Schedule ‘A’

Adopted: October 2014, Amended: November 2022 (Bylaw P1445)



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Bamfield Official Community Plan, Bylaw No. P1309

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PART I – BACKGROUND

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Plan Preparation

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) initiated a review of the Bamfield Official Community Plan in the fall of 2011 to update Bylaw No. P1026, 2000. This review was facilitated by students from the Geography Program at Vancouver Island University from June 2011 to April 2012. In preparation for this review, the *Bamfield Community Profile* was completed in the summer of 2011 (copies available at www.acrd.bc.ca). The students assisted with several community events and were responsible for all newsletters, meeting materials, and meeting summaries. A highlight of the planning process was the Community Mapping Exercise, where students and citizens collected stories and information on Bamfield.

Information provided by the current Bamfield OCP, Community Profile, current bylaws and legislation, and other relevant documents were reviewed to ensure that this OCP encompassed all pertinent information and initiatives. This Plan was directed, developed, and shaped using the technical background information, residents' perceptions, and community input.

The citizens of Bamfield are thanked for their generosity of time and effort in developing this Official Community Plan.

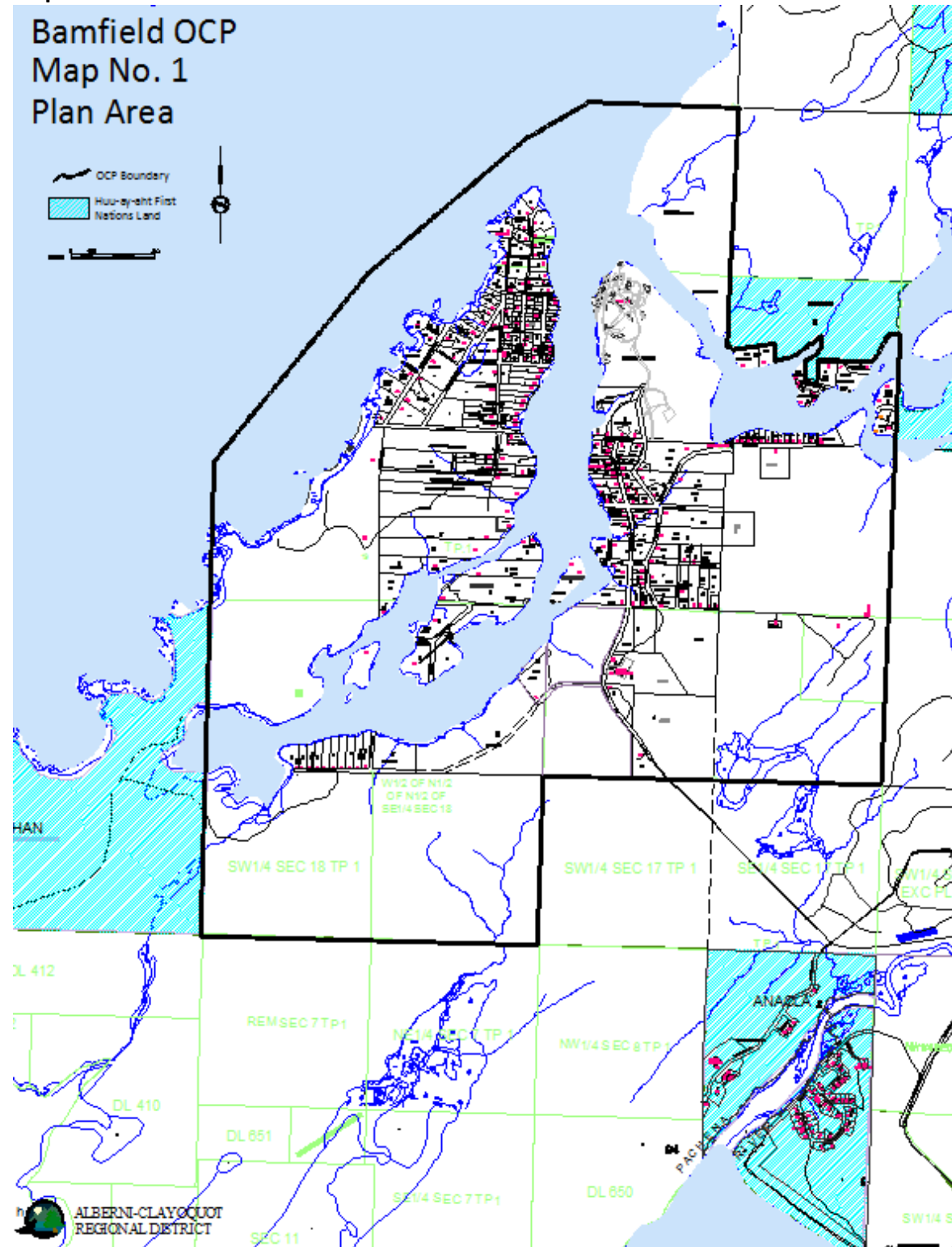
In 2022, minor amendments were made to Bylaw No. P1309 as part of the Zoning Bylaw Review project to align OCP policies and objectives with the updated Zoning Bylaw.

The Plan area is shown in heavy outline on Map No. 1. It is recognized that this boundary is not included in the letters patent of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. For the purposes of this Official Community Plan and the application of the objectives and policies included in this Plan, this boundary shall prevail.

Note to the Reader, in this document:

- The Official Community Plan is referred to as the OCP or the Plan.
- The Alberni Clayoquot Regional District is referred to as the Regional District or abbreviated as ACRD.
- The Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot Zoning Bylaw No. 15 is abbreviated as the Zoning Bylaw.
- The *Local Government Act* is abbreviated as the LGA.

Map No. 1 Plan Area



1.2 Purpose of the Official Community Plan

An OCP is a general statement of the broad objectives and policies of the local government, a statement of the community's goals, objectives and policies with respect to existing and proposed land use, and forms the basis for regulatory bylaws. As such, the purpose of the Bamfield OCP is to provide the ACRD with a comprehensive long-range framework to guide, monitor and evaluate future land uses and community development decisions. The Plan is intended to provide direction to the ACRD, private citizens, businesses and public agencies on all matters concerning future development within the planning area.

The goals, objectives and policies outlined in the OCP are intended to provide insight and guidelines to ACRD staff, regional board directors, residents, property owners, investors, the development industry and regulatory agencies with respect to land use, servicing requirements, development, redevelopment and future plans.

1.3 Legislative Authority

The OCP is a bylaw and is prepared and adopted under the statutory provisions of the *LGA*. Section 473 of the *LGA* specifies that an OCP must include statements regarding the following matters:

- (a) the approximate location, amount, type and density of residential development required to meet anticipated housing needs over a period of at least 5 years;
- (b) the approximate location, amount and type of present and proposed commercial, industrial, community service, agricultural, recreational and public utility land uses;
- (c) the approximate location and area of sand and gravel deposits that are suitable for future sand and gravel extraction;
- (d) restrictions on the use of land that is subject to hazardous conditions or that is environmentally sensitive to development;
- (e) the approximate location and phasing of any major road, sewer and water systems;
- (f) the approximate location and type of present and proposed public facilities, including schools, parks and waste treatment and disposal sites;
- (g) other matters that may, in respect of any plan, be required or authorized by the minister.

In addition, an OCP “must include housing policies of the local government respecting affordable housing, rental housing and special needs housing.”

Section 473(2.1) of the *LGA* also requires that an OCP “must consider the most recent housing needs report the local government received, and the housing information on which the report is based” when developing or amending an OCP in relation to statements, map designations or housing policies included in Section 473(1) of the *LGA*. In 2021, the ACRD Board received the

Bamfield Electoral Area 'A' Housing Needs Report. The report includes key recommendations and a high level approach to address housing gaps in Bamfield and across the region. In consideration of the Housing Needs Report, housing statements and policies will be updated or added to Bylaw No. P1309 as part of future comprehensive OCP updates.

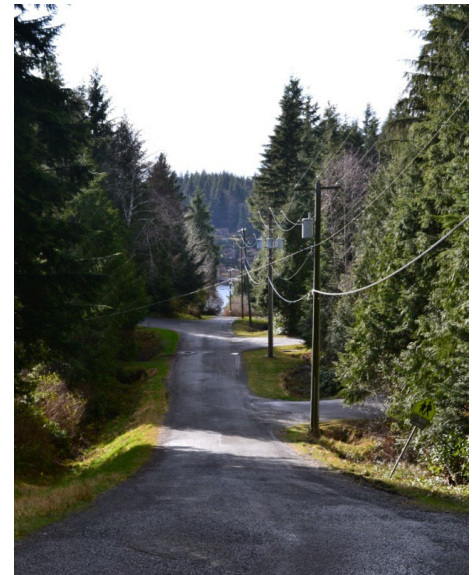
An OCP must also include “targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the area covered by the plan, and policies and actions of the local government proposed with respect to achieving those targets.”

Section 474 then adds elements that an official community plan may include:

- (a) policies of the local government relating to social needs, social well-being and social development;
- (b) a regional context statement, consistent with the rest of the community plan, of how matters referred to in section 429, and other matters dealt with in the community plan, apply in a regional context;
- (c) policies of the local government respecting the maintenance and enhancement of farming on land in a farming area or in an area designated for agricultural use in the community plan;
- (d) policies of the local government relating to the preservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity.

Section 473 and 474 provide direction on what must be and may be included in an OCP. Some of the content (for example, the reference to a regional context statement in (b), above, are not relevant to this Official Community Plan as the ACRD and the member municipalities have not entered into a regional growth strategy. Other elements such as (d) are critically important to the community and while they are not required content, this Plan would be incomplete without a detailed discussion on environmental issues and the establishment of policies to manage the impact of growth and change on sensitive environmental features.

This Official Community Plan meets all legislative requirements as specified in the *Local Government Act*.



An official community plan sets out directions for managing future growth and change in a community.

1.4 Jurisdiction

The Regional District generally has authority over land use and activities on privately-owned land within its boundaries. It has some influence, often through the referral process, on activities that fall under other governing bodies' jurisdiction. In addition, once an official community plan is adopted as a bylaw, other government agencies may recognize the objectives and policies in the Plan and use them to guide their own development initiatives.

It is important to note that OCP land-use designations do not apply on Crown land to either the Crown, its agents and/or tenure holders unless the relevant Ministry willingly complies with them or the land is sold or transferred to a private individual or company.

Activities on land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) are subject to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALCA)*, *Regulations and any Orders or decision of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)*. There are no lands designated in this Plan Area as within the ALR, but the Plan recognizes the importance of protecting lands for agriculture and the administrative responsibilities held by the ALC.

Similarly, there is privately-owned land that is designated as Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL) and regulated by the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*. This Official Community Plan cannot restrict, either directly or indirectly, forest management activities on these lands.

The Huu-ay-aht First Nation has lands immediately adjacent to the Plan area. Every effort has been made to ensure that the land use plans of Huu-ay-aht First Nation are recognized in this Official Community Plan. The Community of Bamfield will work closely with Huu-ay-aht First Nation to ensure compatibility on land use planning actions in the future.

The subdivision approval authority in unincorporated areas within regional districts is the provincial Approving Officer, associated with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. The Approving Officer bases his decisions on both provincial guidelines and the Regional District's recommendations with regards to its bylaws and policies, but cannot go against Regional District zoning bylaw requirements. An OCP may provide a basis for the Approving Officer to determine if a proposed subdivision is against the public interest. Development permits may also be required from the Regional District prior to subdivision approval from the Approving Officer.

Upland owners along the Bamfield Inlet are required to obtain a Land Act tenure prior to the installation of a new waterfront improvement or amend their existing Land Act tenure if alterations of existing waterfront structures extend beyond the dimensions of their current tenure, since aquatic Crown land within Bamfield Inlet is the jurisdiction of the Province of British Columbia.

1.5 The Plan

This OCP, Schedule A to Bylaw No. P1309, is divided into three parts:

- Part I, entitled **Background**, provides an introduction to the planning area and an overview of the intent of this OCP.
- Part II contains the **Goals, Objectives and Policies** for the community's growth and development over the next five to ten years. In this section, land use designations are developed which set out the plan for specific areas of land. The goals, objectives, and policies are then developed for each of these land use designations.
- Part III, **Plan Implementation**, provides a number of additional options available to the ACRD in order to implement the Plan. This section also provides detailed direction for growth and change through the establishment of development permit areas (DPAs) for lands that are considered to be sensitive or highly significant to the community. This section also establishes procedures for the Plan's amendment and review.

All three Parts and the accompanying maps located at the end of this document form the OCP for Bamfield. In some instances, policies for a specific area or feature may be found in more than one part of the Plan. For example, coastal areas are addressed under the policies for the natural environment and are also established as a development permit area. Therefore, the Plan as a whole should be consulted, rather than only one section, in the planning process.

Many citizens noted that protecting the coastal areas is a high priority in the Plan.



1.6 The Plan Area

Bamfield and Anacla communities are located within the homeland and Traditional Territory of the Huu-ay-aht First Nation.

Bamfield and Anacla straddle the Cape Beale headlands which are on the south shore of Barkley Sound. Today, the combined population of the two locales approaches 500. The setting for these communities includes temperate rainforest, protected inlets, and the exposed Pacific Coast. The two locales are surrounded by the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest, Huu-ay-aht First Nation lands, and portions of Pacific Rim National Park. The Community of Bamfield is divided by the Bamfield Inlet. West Bamfield (located on Mills Peninsula) is only accessible by boat. The Bamfield boardwalk connects most of the homes, businesses, and docks on the west side. An unpaved logging road connects East Bamfield to the City of Port Alberni, located approximately 100 kilometres to the northeast. East Bamfield contains most of the commercial businesses and community amenities, including the Bamfield Community School, Volunteer Fire Department, and Health Centre. East Bamfield also includes the area known as Port Desire, located directly east of the main commercial area and situated on the Grappler Inlet.

The area is typified by a relatively pristine coastal environment that allows residents and visitors opportunities for hiking, sports fishing, kayaking, boating, diving, and relaxation activities.

The oral histories of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) relate that they have occupied the region since time began. The most significant of the HFN sites in the region was the capital and defensive stronghold of Kiix'in (pronounced "kee-hin"), located on the Cape Beale Headlands. Prior to contact with Europeans, it is estimated that the First Nations population of Barkley Sound was between 3,000 and 5,000.

Bamfield was named after William Eddy Banfield, however it is unclear how or when the "n" in his name became an "m." Between 1857 and 1862, Banfield was employed as the government's first white settler, Indian Agent, trader, explorer, writer, and interpreter in Barkley Sound. Other European settlers arrived in the area in the late 1800s to establish a fishing community and an outpost for fur trading.

In 1902, the Bamfield Cable Station was constructed as the western terminus of the worldwide undersea Trans-Pacific Cable that linked the countries of the British Empire. The Bamfield Cable Station served as an essential communications link for the rest of the world until 1953 when the cable was extended up the Alberni Inlet to the City of Port Alberni. The Cable Station was closed in 1959, and most of the buildings were demolished.

The Bamfield Lifeboat Station was built in 1907, and was the first lifesaving station on Canada's Pacific Coast. Known as "the Graveyard of the Pacific," the coastline south of Bamfield was treacherous for ships, and today's West Coast Trail is the same trail that was originally built to help survivors of the many shipwrecks get back to civilization. The old Bamfield Lifeboat Station is still used today by the Canadian Coast Guard.

In 1972, a consortium of five Western Canadian universities bought the Cable Station land and the remaining buildings to form the Bamfield Marine Station. Now known as the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, the institution continues to be used as a teaching and research facility, and is the village of Bamfield's largest employer.

The settlement of Anacla was established in 1969 and members of the HFN have resided there ever since. HFN has been its own legislative authority and government since the signing of the Maa-nulth Treaty in 2011. Today, HFN is a member of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board and is involved in many new projects relating to environmental protection, growth and change following the completion of the Treaty process. This Plan fully supports working in harmony with Huu-ay-aht First Nation on any issues of shared concern and benefit, and the word "community" in this document reflects the involvement of both partners.



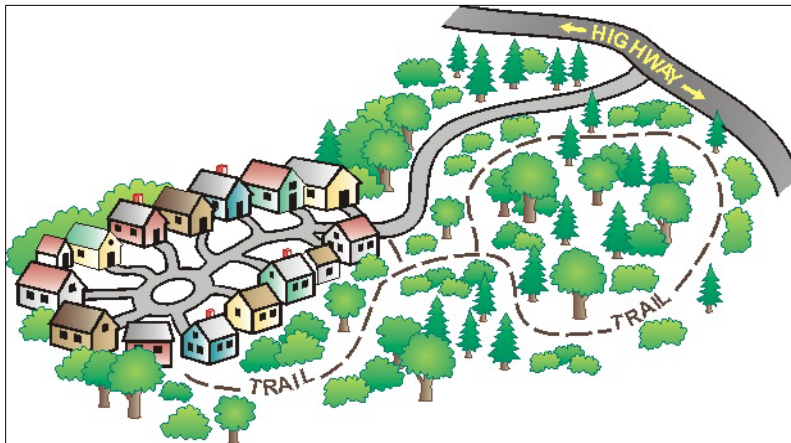
Orcas in the Inlet.

1.7 Definitions

“Accessory dwelling unit” means a second dwelling unit, incidental or ancillary to a principal dwelling on a lot, in accordance with regulations for accessory dwelling units in the Zoning Bylaw.

“Agricultural Land Reserve” means a reserve of land established under the *Agricultural Land Reserve Act*.

“Clustering” means to cluster housing in order to preserve open space, sensitive ecosystems, natural or archaeological features; also called conservation planning.



“Communal water or sewer system” means a privately-owned water or sewer system with at least two connections.

“Community water or sewer system” means a publicly-owned water or sewer system with at least two connections.

“Comprehensive Development Area” (CDA) means an area designed for a comprehensive development plan or plan that is designed specifically for the site. This designation recognizes the uniqueness of parcels of land or their location or their intended use and is often used for larger areas, urban sites, mixed-use development and intensive small-lot developments.

“Conservation design” means the same as clustering.

“Density averaging” means calculating the density that would be permitted on a parcel of land and allocating it to that portion of the site that is most suitable for development, generally in order to preserve or protect a sensitive portion of the site.

“Density bonusing” means providing additional density or development rights to an applicant in return for an amenity such as ecosystem protection, a public trail, etc.

“Flood construction level” means the minimum elevation above the natural boundary of a water body to the underside of a floor system, or to the top of a slab on grade, for buildings located within an area that is subject to, or likely to be subject to, flooding. An area below flood construction level is not to be used for habitation, mechanical or electrical infrastructure, business or storage of goods damageable by flood water.

“Heritage Viewscape Area” means an area of land containing environmental features, buildings, and structures that typify a West Coast marine landscape.

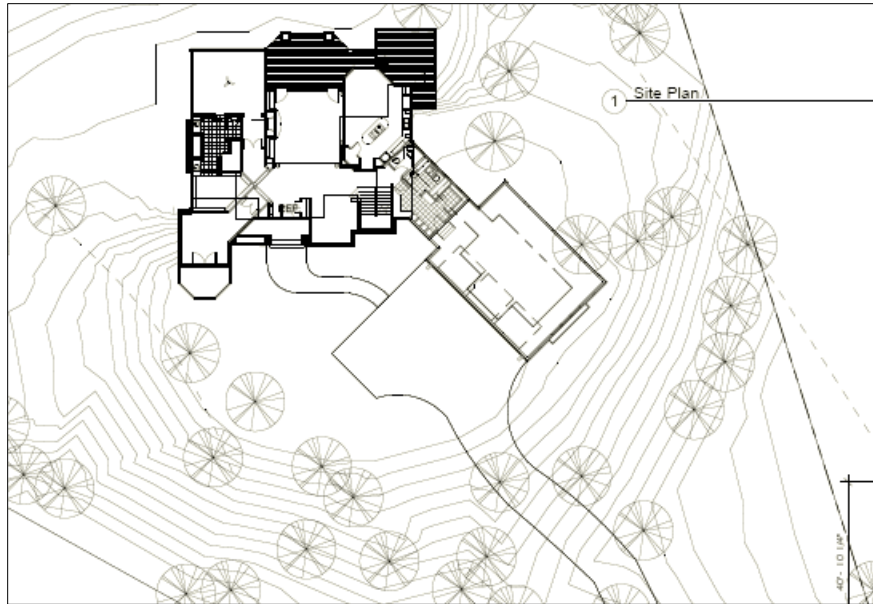
“Home industry” means a business or industry, conducted in an accessory building, structure or outside, that is incidental and ancillary to the principal residential use of a lot, may include accessory retail sales and may include processing, assembly and manufacturing of products, in accordance with the provisions of home industry in the Zoning Bylaw.

“Home occupation” means a business or occupation conducted entirely within a principal dwelling unit, accessory dwelling unit, accessory building or in a combination, that is incidental and ancillary to a principal residential use of a lot, and may include accessory retail sales, in accordance with the provisions of home occupation regulations in the Zoning Bylaw. Includes boarding and lodging, and bed and breakfast, where guest bedrooms are rented, with the tenant or owner residing in the building.

“Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL)” means lands designated as such by the provincial government and regulated by the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*

“Site adaptive planning” means using site and terrain analyses to determine the most appropriate form and placement of development for a property and designed with natural systems. Also called ecological planning or designing with nature.¹

¹ Based on the principles in the book *Design with Nature*, Ian McHarg, 1969



“Small-scale food production” means farming and gardening on smaller-sized, non-ALR rural and residential properties.

“Qualified environmental professional” means an applied scientist or technologist and can be a Professional Biologist, Geoscientist, Forester or Agrologist in good standing in British Columbia with the appropriate professional organization.

“West Coast aesthetic” means placing an emphasis on the natural setting and using predominantly natural materials for buildings.

PART II – VISION & GENERAL GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

2.0 VISION

A series of meetings were held in Bamfield in the early 2000's to discuss the future of the community. Through that process, a Bamfield Vision Statement and Bamfield Values Statements were developed.

These are used as the foundation of this Official Community Plan and the goals, objectives and policies that follow develop from these community-crafted and supported statements.

Bamfield Vision Statement

(Developed in 2002 through *InVolve BC* project and revised in 2003)

We envision Bamfield as an internationally recognized life-long learning community with the necessary supporting infrastructure, with a stable and vibrant economy that provides a variety of jobs and entrepreneurial and educational opportunities. We will preserve and restore the environment and cultural integrity, develop recreational resources and niche specialties that build on new technologies, and establish a welcoming, informed, caring and involved community in which individuals enjoy relationship, spirit and unity.

Bamfield Values Statement

(Developed through the *Inventing our Future, Beyond 2000* dialogue and revised in 2003)

- We are a spirited, friendly, caring community with diverse backgrounds and interest in a secluded west coast setting.
- We value the beauty of the natural and cultural environment and our connections to it.
- We also value the special opportunities that exist within our community for understanding, appreciating and utilizing natural and cultural resources.
- Respect is the basis of our culture and our relationships in the community.
- We are dedicated to preserving and sharing these values.

3.0 GENERAL GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

During the preparation of the *Bamfield Community Profile* and other background documents, information was gained on key issues facing the Bamfield/Anacla area as well as on the future goals for this community. Interviews with staff and elected officials were conducted over summer 2011, and then the first community meeting was held in November. Two additional large-scale community meetings were held in January and March 2012. The January meeting involved citizens of Bamfield and students from Vancouver Island University in a Community Mapping Exercise, intended to identify the places and things that are important to the community. In addition, students from Vancouver Island University began the development of a text on Bamfield, with the chapters and content reflecting the key topic areas developed out of the Official Community Plan process.

In total, almost 150 written or emailed comments were received on the Plan during the drafting process. This was supplemented with high levels of community involvement by a small group of residents interested in particular issue areas of the Plan, and ongoing research on the issues impacting the Pacific Arrowsmith Area. These events and input shaped an understanding of the past and present of the community, and the discussions that took place set the direction for the goals, objectives, and policies outlined in this Plan.

Presented first are general goals, objectives, and policies for the entire Plan area. The Plan is then divided into sections that address specific issues and land uses in the community. All of this information results in the definition of Land Use Designations on **Map No. 2**, the Development Approval Information and Development Permit Areas on **Map No. 3**, and the Infrastructure and Community Services information illustrated on **Map No. 4**.

3.1 The Goals

The **General Goals** of the community are to:

- Goal 3.1.1** Recognize and protect the unique characteristics of our community;
- Goal 3.1.2** Work closely with our neighbours, the Huu-ay-aht First Nation, to achieve common goals and objectives;
- Goal 3.1.3** Protect environmentally sensitive features and the other inhabitants of the air, lands, and water in the Plan area;
- Goal 3.1.4** Recognize the importance of our coastal location and the way in which this location shapes all our actions;
- Goal 3.1.5** Promote a strong sense of community and community pride;
- Goal 3.1.6** Ensure that there are viable employment and business opportunities in the community that will allow people to live in Bamfield and Anacla year-round.

The following Objectives and Policies develop from ACRD planning principles that apply to all of the lands under ACRD jurisdiction. They also recognize the role of the ACRD, the Province, and other levels of government in shaping land uses, growth, and change in the Plan area.

The following General Objectives and Policies, including subdivision guidelines, apply to the entire community of Bamfield.

3.2 General Planning Objectives

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Objective 3.2.1 | Employ – and encourage property owners and developers to employ – sustainability principles and best practices in all aspects of land-use planning, development and management. |
| Objective 3.2.2 | Minimize the potential for land-use conflict and danger from natural hazards. |
| Objective 3.2.3 | Retain public access to all water features. |
| Objective 3.2.4 | Provide a wide variety of opportunities for economic activity and employment within the Plan area. |
| Objective 3.2.5 | Develop a range of parks and trails. |
| Objective 3.2.6 | Facilitate the provision of safe, affordable rental housing within the Plan area. |
| Objective 3.2.7 | Ensure that opportunities for home industry are provided and implemented with minimal disturbance to neighbours. |
| Objective 3.2.8 | Preserve or obtain public access to the waterfront, in the form of trails, public parklands, easements over private lands, or any other mechanism that ensures that the waterfront can be reached by citizens at defined, accessible, and well-distributed points. |
| Objective 3.2.9 | Work with Huu-ay-aht First Nation and appropriate government jurisdictions to address issues with tsunami debris and artifacts from the 2011 earthquake in Japan. |

3.3 General Planning Policies

It is the Regional District's policy to:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Policy 3.3.1 | Expand and develop framework to address derelict properties' appearance and upkeep regulation and intervention policies. |
|---------------------|--|

- Policy 3.3.2** Preserve the integrity of the natural environment and the safety of residents and the built environment.
- Policy 3.3.3** Implement a comprehensive development area designation and other tools such as density averaging and density bonusing to facilitate conservation design, clustering, and environmental protection.
- Policy 3.3.4** Designate larger tracts of vacant lands as Development Approval Information Areas (DAIAs) in order to ensure the safety of the future residents and the built environment on these lands.
- Policy 3.3.5** Provide for smaller lot sizes where communal/community water and communal/community sewer are provided. This recognizes that Bamfield acts as a primary remote service area for the region. Where communal/community water or communal/community sewer are provided, the minimum parcel size shall be 0.24 hectares (0.6 acres). Where no communal/community water or sewer are provided, the minimum parcel size shall be 1 hectare (2.47 acres).

Required Services	Minimum Lot Size
Communal/Community Water and Sewer	< 0.24 ha (0.6 acres)
Communal/Community Water or Sewer	0.24 ha (0.6 acres)
No Communal/Community Water or Sewer	1 ha (2.47 acres)

- Policy 3.3.6** Require a 10-metre fuel-free or fuel-reduced buffer in the wildfire interface area between the forested lands and any building or structure to minimize the danger of fire for all development adjacent to forested lands and woodlots of 20 hectares or more.
- Policy 3.3.7** Provide protection for riparian areas, coastal areas and natural hazard areas by designating them as development permit areas.
- Policy 3.3.8** Require a 10-metre treed, landscaped and fenced buffer between agricultural land and non-agricultural development on non-agricultural land.
- Policy 3.3.9** Require parkland dedication through the subdivision process where it meets stated parkland planning objectives/goals for the area and cash in lieu of parkland where it does not.
- Policy 3.3.10** Acquire and ensure public access to water bodies through the subdivision process where feasible.

- Policy 3.3.11** Permit home occupation uses, as a secondary or accessory use, in any designation where a single-family dwelling is the principal use.
- Policy 3.3.12** Permit home industry uses where the parcel is a minimum of 2 hectares in size.
- Policy 3.3.13** Require adequate screening and buffering between home industry uses and adjacent properties.
- Policy 3.3.14** Require setbacks of not less than 15 metres from the property line where home industrial use is accommodated within an accessory building and not less than 30 metres from the property line if the use is not located in a building.
- Policy 3.3.15** Permit home industrial uses such as arts and crafts, food processing, wood processing such as furniture manufacturing, repair of non-motorized vehicles and as permitted in the zoning bylaw.
- Policy 3.3.16** Permit one (1) accessory dwelling unit on all lots in all designations where the principal use is a single-family dwelling, provided that the lot is not less than 0.4 hectares in size and is capable of meeting all building code requirements, as well as all health requirements. Recognize the need for smaller footprint homes.
- Policy 3.3.17** Recognize parks, trails, roads and utilities as a permitted use in all designations.
- Policy 3.3.18** Consider density bonusing for conservation or protection of land. As an example, a density bonus of 10% could be achieved if 20% of the land is protected, or a bonus 20% if 30% is protected.
- Policy 3.3.19** Consider issuing temporary use permits in appropriate areas within all land use designations.

General Advocacy Policies

- Policy 3.3.20** Promote the development of land in a manner that suits and is appropriate to the site upon which it will be built.
- Policy 3.3.21** Encourage development plans and site layouts incorporating site-adaptive planning and conservation design or clustering.
- Policy 3.3.22** Encourage the preservation of natural features such as streams, lakes and wetlands through the subdivision and development process.

- Policy 3.3.23** Encourage land-use patterns that do not compromise the ecological integrity and rural character of the Plan area.
- Policy 3.3.24** Encourage development and accompanying road systems to be constructed in a manner in keeping with the natural environment but also to be constructed to meet Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Standards.
- Policy 3.3.25** Support the design and use of rainwater management plans for development to ensure that post-development run-off flows approximate pre-development flows.
- Policy 3.3.26** Support small-scale food production on all properties within the Plan area.
- Policy 3.3.27** Encourage redesignation to comprehensive development area for any lot or lot assembly consisting of 2 hectares or more.

A friendly local...



4.0 PLANNING AND LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

The Community of Bamfield and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District acknowledge that land use patterns and land ownership changes over time, and this provides an opportunity to shift the patterns of growth and development to align more fully with the goals, objectives and policies of this Official Community Plan.

The following sections set out the Plan for the Community of Bamfield. The first five sections (below) contain objectives and policies that apply to all the lands in the community:

- Sustainability
- Natural Environment
- Infrastructure
- Agriculture
- Heritage and Culture

The sections that follow (below) contain objectives and policies that apply to specific areas of land, and set out Land Use Designations as shown on Map No. 2:

- Resource
- Industrial
- Commercial
- Residential
- Comprehensive Development
- Community Service Use
- Parks and Recreation

As a specific parcel may be impacted by objectives and policies in more than one section, this Plan should be reviewed in its entirety when developing an understanding of the community's direction on growth and change in Bamfield.

In addition, the Development Permit Area Guidelines contained in Part III should also be carefully reviewed for details on potential land use and development.

Otter prints on the beach.



5.0 SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is presented as the first section of this Plan. This responds to community comments around keeping sustainability as the overarching goal that shapes all objectives and policies in the Bamfield OCP.

This section also includes objectives and policies around planning for climate change. In the case of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), the province has required that every official community plan in BC must contain targets and actions for reducing GHGs. To aid in this process, the provincial government has prepared a Community Energy and Emissions Inventory for each BC community (available on the ACRD website at www.acrd.bc.ca).

As with all rural communities, the majority of emissions in the Regional District stem from on-road transportation. Given that there are few transportation choices other than on-road transportation or coastal transport to access the community, it is anticipated that these traditional forms for moving people and goods will remain dominant. However, there was discussion in the community on the use of alternative fuels and construction methods that would lead to decreased GHG emissions. In addition, when within Bamfield, many residents choose to walk or cycle from place to place. It is anticipated that residents will continue to seek new ways to tread with a lighter human footprint on the landscape of the community.

The ACRD, in setting targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction, must consider the unincorporated areas of the Regional District as a whole, as the inventory is not broken down by electoral area. In 2007, the ACRD electoral areas used a total of 1,510,650 Gigajoules of energy and produced 46,228 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. The ACRD has set the following targets:

Target 1	To reduce vehicular CO ₂ emissions by 10%, from 46,228 tonnes to 41,605 tonnes, by 2013.
Target 2	To focus 50% of new development in areas that are within or close to existing water systems.

5.1 Sustainability Objectives

Objective 5.1.1	Live lightly on the landscape by employing thinking about sustainability in forestry, fishing, tourism, recreation, food production, and residential life.
Objective 5.1.2	Support ways of alternative energy production that makes sense for Bamfield, given its coastal location and challenged accessibility.
Objective 5.1.3	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through personal and community initiatives.

5.2 Sustainability Policies

It is the Regional District's policy to:

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| Policy 5.2.1 | Seek guidance and financial assistance from senior governments for help in implementing its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and policies. |
| Policy 5.2.2 | Create awareness and new opportunities for recycling that make sense for Bamfield, including a new glass recycling facility. |
| Policy 5.2.3 | Support the development of a community compost area to create compost that could be used by citizens or in park spaces, potentially near the community transfer station. |
| Policy 5.2.4 | Create awareness of individual actions by hosting an annual community sustainability event for sharing best practices. |
| Policy 5.2.5 | Require the consideration of sustainability in every new development application in Development Approval Information Areas. |
| Policy 5.2.6 | Encourage the use of water conservation devices such as low flush toilets, rainwater collection systems, and low water use showers. |

Advocacy Policies

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| Policy 5.2.7 | Encourage the installation of bike racks at key locations in the Plan area, including commercial enterprises. |
| Policy 5.2.8 | Encourage the use of non-motorized forms of transportation such as walking and bicycling, car-pooling and ride-sharing to minimize greenhouse gas emissions. |
| Policy 5.2.9 | Encourage siting all dwellings, buildings and structures where they have the least impact on the natural environment (including elevating buildings on the waterfront) and where they may best utilize passive solar heating. |
| Policy 5.2.10 | Encourage the use of energy and water conservation devices such as solar panels or tubes, wind turbines, rainwater collection systems, composting or low-flush toilets, grey water systems, low-water-using showers and appliances in all buildings. |

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| Policy 5.2.11 | Encourage the use of geothermal, air-source heat pumps or solar energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. |
| Policy 5.2.12 | Work with the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre to monitor climate change indicators and make this information available to the public. |
| Policy 5.2.13 | Request that the appropriate Ministry initiate a full-scale review of coastal erosion and ocean level rise issues in the community. |
| Policy 5.2.14 | Apply to relevant provincial Ministries for support for an innovative car/boat/kayak sharing facility for West and East Bamfield. |
| Policy 5.2.15 | Increase walkability by expanding the waterfront trail system. |
| Policy 5.2.16 | Encourage the use of green infrastructure and technologies in residential, commercial, and industrial uses when appropriate. |
| Policy 5.2.17 | Encourage the provincial government to consider the approval of composting toilets and the used of grey water systems for domestic uses. |
| Policy 5.2.18 | Encourage a <i>Design with Nature</i> approach to development to encourage low impact development and manage stormwater runoff. |

5.3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Actions

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| Action #1 | The Regional District will create a forum for the posting and learning of car-pooling and ride-sharing opportunities. |
| Action #2 | The Regional District will build or assist in building not less than one kilometres of pathway or trail per year in the Bamfield/Anacela area. A priority will be a path connecting Bamfield and Anacela. |
| Action #3 | The Regional District will provide information to home owners who wish to legalize an existing accessory dwelling unit or to create a new one. |

6.0 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The Natural Environment is presented as the second section in this Official Community Plan, as the incredible natural environment and highly productive ecosystems are a primary reason why people live in or travel to the Plan area.

Community members have indicated that the protection of environmentally sensitive lands and riparian areas is paramount to protect fish stocks and habitat. Citizens also spoke to the need to protect potable water supplies, both surficial and from aquifers.

Community objectives on the Natural Environment are realized both through the following objectives and policies and through the designation of Development Permit Areas, shown on Map No. 3, for riparian areas, hazard areas (slopes over 30%), and environmentally sensitive lands.

The March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan is expected to have implications for the Plan area as debris from this event washes over to the West Coast. Both the Community of Bamfield and Huu-ay-aht First Nation will be impacted by the repercussions of this natural disaster. The ACRD and other local governments along the coast have agreed to repatriate any found items to Japan as much as possible and to inform relevant authorities of the spread and extent of these items along the coast.

6.1 Natural Environment Objectives

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|------------------------|---|
| Objective 6.1.1 | Protect environmentally sensitive features and areas in recognition of their importance to environmental quality and benefits they provide to the local economies of Bamfield and Anacla (this includes, but is not limited to: marine riparian, marine shorelands [foreshore], beaches, nearshore habitats, shellfish, fish, forage fish spawning habitats, aquatic vegetation, wetlands, estuaries, freshwater systems [rivers, streams, lakes] and wildlife habitats). |
| Objective 6.1.2 | Encourage productive and healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, balanced against economic benefits for inhabitants and the enjoyment of visitors to the area by minimizing potential conflicts with the built environment. |
| Objective 6.1.3 | Protect surface water and riparian areas for fish habitat and other wildlife values. |
| Objective 6.1.4 | Recognize the impacts associated with the moorage of vessels within the harbour that are used as commercial accommodation (social, environmental and economic impacts). |

- Objective 6.1.5** Protect the foreshore areas as important habitat for fish and wildlife and for the future prosperity of local residents.
- Objective 6.1.6** Maintain and enhance habitat diversity and function.
- Objective 6.1.7** Recognize the existing physical environment adjacent to the shoreline in the Bamfield Inlet and on the ocean side of the Mills Peninsula's unique and special character and to ensure compatibility and integration of new development with and into this environment.
- Objective 6.1.8** Recognize that marine riparian corridors are important to maintain natural erosion rates, sedimentation, and pollution abatement into the marine environment and appropriate setbacks are necessary to maintain general ecological stability and natural ecosystem processes.
- Objective 6.1.9** Recognize the cumulative negative impacts associated with upland, shoreline (waterfront) and foreshore development to the marine environment and sensitive habitats and the need to manage them.
- Objective 6.1.10** Plan and regulate new development in a manner that preserves and protects the long-term physical integrity and ecological values of shoreline and associated foreshore and upland areas.
- Objective 6.1.11** Guard against erosion and avoid damage to public property.
- Objective 6.1.12** Identify and limit development on lands that are susceptible to flooding or tsunami hazard.
- Objective 6.1.15** Balance development opportunities with the ecological conservation of the shoreline environment.
- Objective 6.1.13** Maintain the public's use and access to important recreation areas in a manner that does not compromise the ecological integrity of the shoreline or put users at risk.
- Objective 6.1.14** Recognize the need for public access to marine shorelands and foreshore areas and the development of community greenways throughout the community of Bamfield.

6.2 Natural Environment Policies

It is the Regional District's policy to:

- Policy 6.2.1** Protect the environmental integrity of natural resources including lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams.
- Policy 6.2.2** Protect known sensitive ecosystems, wildlife and wildfowl habitat, and environmentally-sensitive areas.
- Policy 6.2.3** Recognize that a sustainable process of tertiary sewage treatment is important to the community, although major upgrades will be costly; in the interim, composting toilets or other septic treatment methods should be investigated.
- Policy 6.2.4** Maintain proper water monitoring systems and ensure the efficient use of water resources, including treatment, before potable water re-enters the ocean.
- Policy 6.2.5** Encourage bear proofing for all residential and commercial garbage disposal and educate residents on the negative issues relating to garbage disposal in the community forest.
- Policy 6.2.6** Implement new Development Permit Area guidelines that keep the foreshore natural and establish a buffer area with limited development.
- Policy 6.2.7** Require that all development proposals consider the maintenance of appealing natural features and the enhancement of important views.
- Policy 6.2.8** Protect against the loss of life and minimize property damage associated with flooding events within the Regional District by encouraging park and open space recreational uses on flood susceptible lands. Where there is no alternative but to use flood prone lands for development, the construction and siting of buildings and mobile homes to be used for habitation, business or the storage of goods damageable by flood waters shall be flood proofed to those standards specified by provincial regulations.
- Policy 6.2.9** Upland areas included within the Environmentally Sensitive designation where appropriate, be subject to increased building setbacks as well as vegetation retention covenants due to slope stability, erosion abatement and aesthetic reasons.
- Policy 6.2.10** The ACRD will support means by which ancient wildlife trees can be identified and adequately protected from felling throughout the Plan area.

- Policy 6.2.11** The Regional District will actively encourage and petition the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre to voluntarily and legally protect, retain and preserve forested areas and tracts, adjacent to foreshore/water, flanking Grappler Inlet/Port Desire and the Bamfield Inlet for visual, scenic and amenity impact reasons; this area is designated as a Development Permit Area (see Part III).
- Policy 6.2.12** Placement of fill within floodplains should be restricted to the greatest extent possible in order to provide passage for flood waters without increasing flood levels or re-directing flows. Placement of fill may also decrease natural flood storage and result in higher flows downstream.
- Policy 6.2.13** Swamps and wetlands within the plan area should be retained as much as possible in their natural state as they provide natural flood storage.
- Advocacy Policies**
- Policy 6.2.14** Encourage federal and provincial authorities to consider long term sustainability principles in development of policy and the issuance of licences for fishing.
- Policy 6.2.15** Encourage local tourist facilities to join together to develop an eco-friendly brand for Bamfield that will draw in like-minded patrons.
- Policy 6.2.16** Advocate allowing beach burning only on specific sites and oppose all burning of garbage either for domestic refuse for citizens or for the burning of garbage by visitors to the community.
- Policy 6.2.17** When required, work with the federal government to manage the moorage of vessels in the harbour, both to manage environmental impacts and to reduce negative economic impacts for existing businesses and services.
- Policy 6.2.18** The ACRD shall support the Riparian Area Regulation established by the province and maintain a 30 metre buffer from the natural boundary of either side of a river or major stream as defined in “DPA I – Riparian Areas Protection” unless a smaller setback is recommended by a Qualified Environmental Professional using the prescribed methodology.
- Policy 6.2.19** Development of land, and the location of all permanent structures upon land included within the Plan area, may be subject to additional setback and elevational requirements as determined by the ACRD in

consultation with the province. It is emphasized, however, that the unique nature of the community and its physical environment does not warrant, or merit or justify in terms of redevelopment options, a “standardized” floodproofing response from the province. To ensure compatible and sensible development and redevelopment occurs, the ACRD will actively seek provincial approvals and concurrence to siting alternatives and options that enhance and fit into, the existing, built, fabric of the community.

Policy 6.2.20 The ACRD supports the protection of any eagle, heron, osprey nesting sites on any lands within the Plan area; these lands are subject to protection under the Wildlife Act.

Policy 6.2.21 The ACRD, in cooperation with the province, may initiate and/or request or stipulate the formal retention of vegetation on lands adjacent to or in any sensitive environmental area by formal covenant in adjudicating formal development proposals. This stipulation is exclusive of separate Section 567 and 510 requirements of the Local Government Act.

Policy 6.2.22 In addition, the ACRD consider initiating a landscaping/screening by-law under the Local Government Act for Bamfield in order to foster the above noted goals/objectives.

The following section provides specific objectives and policies for Eelgrass Protection. Eelgrass is a keystone species: healthy eelgrass is indicative of a healthy marine ecosystem, and a healthy marine ecosystem supports the health of terrestrial and avian species. Therefore, this sub-section is presented separately but within the Natural Environment section.

6.3 Eelgrass Protection Objectives

Objective 6.3.1 Where feasible, protect and restore sensitive eelgrass habitat in aquatic environments where eelgrass existed in the past or where conditions would support the development of eelgrass beds.

6.4 Eelgrass Protection Policies

It is the Regional District’s policy to:

Policy 6.4.1 Discourage docks, piers, and mooring buoys from being located in areas containing sensitive, unique, or high value habitats.

Policy 6.4.2 Minimize shading on the foreshore and shallow subtidal habitats

due to buildings or structures, as this can impede juvenile salmon migration and decrease aquatic vegetation growth.

Policy 6.4.3 Support the Huu-ay-aht Bamfield Eelgrass Stewardship Project and incorporate its eelgrass mapping into the OCP denoting Development Permit Area IV – Coastal Protection.

Policy 6.4.4 Discourage solid-core pier and ramps.

Policy 6.4.5 Encourage boat launch ramps to be located on stable, non-erosional banks where a minimum amount of shoreline stabilization is necessary. Ramps should be kept flush with the slope of the foreshore (to avoid interruption of littoral drift), and be constructed of natural gravels rather than concrete where appropriate.

Advocacy Policies

Policy 6.4.6 Construction of private and group moorage facilities (docks or boat-lifts) on all land in the ACRD, including Crown and private land, must meet the requirements of the Zoning Bylaw, and where applicable on Crown land must meet Provincial General Permission. A property owner must obtain a tenure from the Province for a Specific Permission dock, Commercial Marina or group moorage facility, where applicable on Crown land. Ownership of a waterfront property does not guarantee the ability to construct a dock or ramp. In addition, private docks are to be used for approved water-based purposes by the land owner and not for rental or lease to any non-family member. Approved water-based purposes appropriate water-based uses which include: moorage of vessels, storage of personal watercraft (canoes/kayaks). Dock footprint should not be increased to accommodate activities that can be shore-based or any other recreational or business enterprise (including sheds and fish cleaning stations).

Policy 6.4.4 Work with relevant agencies to support a ban on creosote pilings and dock structures and on any other ramp/dock materials that are toxic to the environment and/or contain toxic materials.

Policy 6.4.5 Investigate the implementation of tax incentives or grants from senior levels of government for the construction of “eelgrass friendly” docks.



7.0 INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure consists of “hard services” such as roads, water systems, waste management systems and utilities, as well as “community services” such as police and fire protection, schools, hospitals and health services, religious and burial facilities, and community centres. These are shown on Map No. 4 of this Plan.

The most discussed issue under this topic is the road to Bamfield. While community opinion is mixed on paving the road, most residents expressed a strong desire to see the road maintained year-round to minimize the damage to automobiles and reduce the potential for accidents.

7.1 Infrastructure Objectives

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|------------------------|--|
| Objective 7.1.1 | Maximize the efficient use of water and sewer infrastructure that is in place, recognizing that major upgrades or expansions will be costly. |
| Objective 7.1.2 | Direct growth to infilling areas where servicing can be efficiently supplied. |
| Objective 7.1.3 | Work with Huu-ay-aht First Nation on shared infrastructure objectives, including a regional and shared water supply/distribution system to address present and future water supply problems. |
| Objective 7.1.4 | Improve garbage collection and recycling services to limit bear incidents and to increase the amount of product that can be recycled, recognizing that costs of recycling can be high due to transportation limitations. |
| Objective 7.1.5 | Support an efficient and high-functioning fire protection service with a focus on fire prevention and education. |
| Objective 7.1.6 | Recognize the importance of the Bamfield Road to the community’s social and economic health. |
| Objective 7.1.7 | Ensure the long-term longevity and continued operation of the public dock facilities as the use of this infrastructure is critical to the social and economic health of the Plan area. |

7.2 Infrastructure Policies

It is the Regional District’s policy to:

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| Policy 7.2.1 | Encourage all future development proposals to consider sustainability and the efficient use of existing servicing. |
|---------------------|--|

Policy 7.2.2 Any development that will have a significant impact on the Bamfield Water System shall include a comprehensive review by a Professional Engineer to determine the impact on the system in terms of capacity and water quality.

Policy 7.2.3 The Regional District will maintain a garbage collection and recycling facility in East Bamfield.

Policy 7.2.4 Explore options for tying into the Huu-ay-aht First Nation sewage system and encourage new thinking on the treatment of sewage to decrease fecal coliform levels in Bamfield Inlet.

Policy 7.2.5 Develop a brochure/map with tips on how to drive the road to Bamfield safely and efficiently.

Advocacy Policies

Policy 7.2.6 Protect water resources and the Community Watershed to ensure that any development in this area is limited and recognizes the potential impacts on water supply.

Policy 7.2.7 Work with relevant provincial agencies to find solutions for sewage disposal, recognizing that any option must be supported by the community and financially feasible.

Policy 7.2.8 The Regional District will work with provincial and federal governments to ensure that any tax exemptions for public and private utilities, and community service or educational establishments are balanced against fair and equitable contributions toward community servicing.

Policy 7.2.9 The Regional District shall advocate for improved year-round maintenance of the Bamfield Road with all relevant authorities.

Policy 7.2.10 The Regional District will work with the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) to encourage the use of grey water systems throughout the community.

Policy 7.2.11 The community and ACRD will work with BC Hydro to find new ways to limit power outages. Options may include back-up generators for the entire power grid, incentives for the purchase and installation of individual generators, the development of local, alternative energy generation sources such as wind turbines and run-of-the-river microhydro.

- Policy 7.2.12** Request new infrastructure to increase phone reception and internet capabilities for residents, tourists, and businesses.
- Policy 7.2.13** Support Huu-ay-aht First Nation infrastructure expansion activities where community support is in place.
- Policy 7.2.14** Investigate funding for the development of a sewage system on the west side of Bamfield that could be connected in the future to a main sewer system.
- Policy 7.2.15** Work with transportation vessels to assist in the removal of recyclable materials.
- Policy 7.2.16** Work with Huu-ay-aht First Nation on fire prevention and education issues to support the activities of the shared fire department services.



8.0 HERITAGE AND CULTURE

The people of the Huu-ay-aht First Nation have lived in this area from time immemorial. European settlers arrived to the area in the late 1800s to establish a fishing community and an outpost for fur trading. This section of the Plan looks at objectives and policies for protecting the heritage and unique cultural features of the community.

8.1 Heritage and Culture Objectives

- Objective 8.1.1** Acknowledge the importance of the natural environment and physical features in shaping the culture and sense of community in the Plan area.
- Objective 8.1.2** Endeavour to increase connection and communication with the Huu-ay-aht First Nation to work toward shared objectives around heritage and culture.
- Objective 8.1.3** To encourage the recognition, protection and preservation of heritage features and sites, including the Boardwalk and historical Life Saving Trail.

8.2 Heritage and Culture Policies

It is the Regional District's policy to:

- Policy 8.2.1** Support the development of a new community centre to encourage community gatherings and events. In the interim, the efficient use of existing buildings such as the school and fire hall for community uses is encouraged.
- Policy 8.2.2** The ACRD, in cooperation with the appropriate provincial and federal agencies and interested local parties, will support measures to protect heritage features and sites in the area. To that end, such protection measures will be both discretionary/voluntary and regulatory with:
- a) Developers being encouraged to consider heritage resource concerns in their project planning and design.
 - b) The ACRD may consider implementation of a Heritage Designation Bylaw under the *Local Government Act* for appropriate lands/sites; and
 - c) The ACRD will encourage the protection of the existing Life Saving Trail as a historically significant element within the area and will ensure adequate buffers, containing the trail proper, are retained to achieve these goals.

Advocacy Policies

- Policy 8.2.3** Support the identification, protection and conservation of archaeological sites and features and work with relevant provincial authorities in this area.
- Policy 8.2.4** Encourage volunteerism to boost local events and festivals held by community groups and institutions.



Points of interest in the community.

9.0 RESOURCE

The area surrounding Bamfield contains large tracts of forested lands which provide wildlife habitat, stream protection, and buffers between potentially conflicting uses. At the same time, forestry-related activities provide economic activity and employment.

The Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest (BHCF) is partly located within the Plan area. The Community Forest is approximately 365 hectares in area. According to the Community Forest Management Plan dated September 19, 2011, “The original Tenure Agreement allowed for recognition and utilization of resources and values other than timber, and as such our Management Plans have not focused on management of timber resources alone. Our Community Forest attempts to integrate many other activities, including the sustainable harvest of Non-Timber Forest Products, community based value-added wood manufacturing, ecologically-based silviculture, education, research, training, restoration, ecotourism/interpretation (cultural and natural), recreation and small business facilitation. We have achieved some of these goals through research partnerships, trail location reconnaissance efforts, projects with the Bamfield School and others.”

The initial Tenure Agreement was negotiated through 2000 and 2001 and signed in September of 2001. The Management Plan that was developed continues from that point and will meet the requirement that allows the transfer from a Pilot Community Forest Agreement (PCFA) to a Community Forest Agreement (CFA). This Official Community Plan recognizes the goals and intents of the Community Forest Management Plan.

9.1 Resource Objectives

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|------------------------|---|
| Objective 9.1.1 | Maintain and foster a viable forestry industry to ensure local employment. |
| Objective 9.1.2 | Retain significant tree cover throughout the area. |
| Objective 9.1.3 | Protect and enhance ecologically sound forests to achieve benefits such as climate regulation, clean water, erosion and sedimentation control, nutrient cycling, biological pest control, habitat values and maintenance of biodiversity, and to allow for value added extraction from the forests. |
| Objective 9.1.4 | Meet or exceed all regulatory requirements for selection harvesting in the Community Forest through innovative development practices. |
| Objective 9.1.5 | Maintain local control and stewardship of the Community Forest, facilitated through a board of directors and an advisory committee. The forest will provide greenspace, buffering, recreational opportunities for residents and tourists, and habitat for local species. |

9.2 Resource Policies

It is the Regional District's policy to:

Policy 9.2.1 Maintain a minimum lot size of 16 hectares in areas designated Resource Use.

Advocacy Policies

Policy 9.2.2 Support the on-going use of forestry lands for silviculture, growing and harvesting of trees.

Policy 9.2.3 Encourage large-lot land owners to retain tree-cover and to maintain slope and soil integrity.

Policy 9.2.4 Support silviculture and forestry activities.

Policy 9.2.5 Identify stands of old growth trees in SW1/4 SEC 18 TP1 and in adjacent Huu-ay-aht First Nation land and seek a park designation for areas with trail networks and stands of old growth forest.

Policy 9.2.6 Liaise with Huu-ay-aht First Nation on the development of a trail network connecting West Bamfield Community Forest land and the Ancient First Nations settlement.

Policy 9.2.7 External support for the Community Forest is encouraged to ensure that the forest remains financially self-sustaining.

Policy 9.2.8 The Community Forest Society is committed to managing the Community Forest over a long term planning horizon.

10.0 INDUSTRIAL

Since the founding of the communities, Bamfield and Anacla have contained a range of industrial uses focusing on natural resource extraction and the sea. The overall objective of this section is to encourage industrial uses for employment, but ensure that these uses do not conflict with the natural environment or other forms of land development.

The ACRD recognizes that natural resources are vital to the development and maintenance of the built environment and its infrastructure. There is some potential for extraction in the Plan area. Known sand, gravel and mineral reserves are shown on Map No. 3.

10.1 Industrial Objectives

- Objective 10.1.1** Facilitate the growth and diversification of the local economy.
- Objective 10.1.2** Encourage small-scale industrial uses that do not conflict with other forms of land development.
- Objective 10.1.3** Support Home Based Industries within the terms of regulations that limit the potential for impact on surrounding residential properties.

10.2 Industrial Policies

It is the Regional District's policy to:

- Policy 10.2.1** Designate lands as Industrial Use in recognition of existing uses or to support future industrial development.
- Policy 10.2.2** Implement a Development Permit Area that regulates the form and character as well as the impact of industrial developments on environmentally sensitive areas as part of this Plan.
- Policy 10.2.3** Require that industrial uses and activities be buffered where they are located adjacent to non-industrial properties.
- Policy 10.2.4** Limit land uses that are permitted within the Industrial Use designation to uses that are not considered to be heavy or noxious.

11.0 COMMERCIAL

The Plan area contains both commercially designated properties and a range of home based businesses and industries. The overall objective of this section is to emphasize the importance of supporting current businesses and encourage new businesses that support the community's goals, objectives, and policies on sustainability.

11.1 Commercial Objectives

- Objective 11.1.1** Recognize that transportation by car and boat shapes the type of businesses that will locate in the Plan area and impacts the accessibility of the community to tourists and travellers.
- Objective 11.1.2** Continue to support maximum flexibility in the location of commercial development in the community, balanced against the potential for conflict with existing residential lands.
- Objective 11.1.3** Support existing businesses that provide goods and services to residents and visitors to the community and recognize that commercial uses are essential to the sustainability of the community.
- Objective 11.1.4** Maintain the waterfront as the focal point for community commercial activities.
- Objective 11.1.5** Recognize that commercial uses are essential to the sustainability of the community.

11.2 Commercial Policies

It is the Regional District's policy to:

- Policy 11.2.1** Work with local businesses to ensure owners are aware of and in compliance with all current bylaws.
- Policy 11.2.2** Rationalize the zoning bylaw to ensure that lands currently used for commercial or mixed use development are appropriately zoned.
- Policy 11.2.3** Support a detailed review of parking in waterfront areas (both car and boat parking/moorage) and the development of a Parking Plan.
- Policy 11.2.4** The designation of any new lands within the Commercial Use category shall require that the proposed development is evaluated against the Plan's policies for sustainability, water provision, and sewage disposal.
- Policy 11.2.5** Small scale commercial enterprises are supported on lands designated

for Residential Uses, in compliance with relevant sections of the zoning bylaw.

Policy 11.2.6 Guest houses are supported on lands designated for Residential Uses provided that they are compatible with surrounding land uses and comply with the requirements of the Zoning Bylaw.

Policy 11.2.7 Ensure mixed use designations are maintained and encouraged to accommodate commercial uses that suit the form and character of Bamfield.

Policy 11.2.8 Mixed Use designation includes small scale lodge facilities (up to 6 rooms of accommodation), boarding/rooming houses, transportation terminals, cafes, small scale restaurant facilities (up to 25 seats), retail commercial (2,000 square feet maximum floor area), charter operations and guiding/outfitters, boat or canoe rental, water taxi services and similar small scale commercial uses.

Advocacy Policies

Policy 11.2.8 Solicit or promote opportunities for new businesses that are lacking in the community.

Policy 11.2.9 Work with the province to examine the benefits of implementing business licensing in the Plan area to assist in the regulation of businesses.



Public art in Bamfield.

12.0 AGRICULTURAL

The Plan area does not contain any lands designated specifically for agricultural uses. Instead, the wider trend is to encourage appropriate levels of agriculture in any land use designation or zone to increase self-sufficiency and encourage local food production. Access to local, healthy food is becoming increasingly important. People are interested in knowing where their food is grown, how it is processed, and how far it has travelled before consumption.

While Bamfield is not known for intensive agricultural activities, there are many opportunities to work together to expand local production. This may help to generate positive economic activities and may also reduce ecological footprints as food production becomes more localized.

The following objectives and policies apply to all land use designations.

12.1 Agricultural Objectives

- Objective 12.1.1** Encourage the production of food for personal consumption in any land use designation or zone.
- Objective 12.1.2** Protect water supplies for agriculture.
- Objective 12.1.3** Encourage greater levels of self-sufficiency and security in food production through innovative growing methods that fit with the terrain and climate of the West Coast.

12.2 Agricultural Policies

It is the Regional District's policy to:

- Policy 12.2.1** Incorporate small-scale agriculture on residential lots, to a level that is appropriate to the community, into the Zoning Bylaw.
- Policy 12.2.2** Support food production as a home based business where compliance with health and environmental regulations can be achieved.

Advocacy Policies

- Policy 12.2.3** Support the development of a community food strategy to assist residents in working together in food production.
- Policy 12.2.4** Consider the use of vacant lands for agricultural purposes as an in-fill use that may be permitted in any zone (with the written permission of the land owner).

13.0 RESIDENTIAL

The Bamfield/Anacla area contains a wide range of residential uses, from permanent dwellings to cabins and cottages intended for seasonal use. The overall objective of this section is to protect the existing sense of place in the community that results from the form and character of housing and the spectacular setting of the community on the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

13.1 Residential Objectives

- Objective 13.1.1** Recognize the desirability of the community as a place that supports a high quality of life.
- Objective 13.1.2** Ensure future residential growth is located in areas where development is technically feasible and where impacts on existing residential areas are minimized.
- Objective 13.1.3** Balance the interests of visiting tourists with the lifestyle choices of local residents.
- Objective 13.1.4** Minimize potential negative impacts between competing uses in close proximity to residential areas.

13.2 Residential Policies

It is the Regional District's policy to:

- Policy 13.2.1** Ensure that the principal use in all areas designated as Residential Use be residential, as specified by the Zoning Bylaw.
- Policy 13.2.2** Support a range of residential densities based on good planning principles and infrastructure capabilities.
- Policy 13.2.3** Multi-unit uses may be permitted in the residential and mixed use areas, provided the zoning supports the use, and the use has been adjudicated by the ACRD on infrastructure implications and the compatibility of the development with surrounding uses.
- Policy 13.2.4** Cottage units may be permitted in compliance with the applicable sections of the Zoning Bylaw.
- Policy 13.2.5** Encourage the development of small dwelling units that ideally are more affordable and have a smaller ecological footprint.
- Policy 13.2.6** Implement a Development Permit that regulates the form and character of

multi-family residential development as well as the environmental impacts of any proposed development that shall apply to all lands within a Development Permit Area.

Advocacy Policies

Policy 13.2.7 The development of shared community docks shall be encouraged over individual docks and moorage.

Policy 13.2.8 The ACRD will work with Island Health to consider the use of composting toilets and grey water reuse. Composting toilets are not within the scope of the provincial *Sewerage System Regulation* which prescribes that any plumbing exiting a structure be connected to a septic system, sewer or permitted holding tank.

Policy 13.2.9 The ACRD will advocate for improved public beach access through all future subdivision applications as required under the *Land Title Act*. The ACRD will work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Provincial Approving Officer to formally develop road access to water.

Starfish at low tide.



14.0 COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT

There are lands in the Plan area that require an additional level of consideration when contemplating new development. These lands are along the waterfront and/or are larger parcels where comprehensive, larger-scale development is possible. This section advocates for objectives and policies that respect the unique characteristics of the community and the potential impact of the development of key parcels of land. This section requires that all new development respect the visual reference to a historical West Coast fishing village, with both a high degree of similarity in community form and unique aspects in individual building design.

Lands considered appropriate for comprehensive development planning are designated as Comprehensive Development Areas (CDAs) in this Plan.

14.1 Comprehensive Development Objectives

- Objective 14.1.1** Facilitate land use design that respects Bamfield’s unique coastal landscape and character.
- Objective 14.1.2** Identify and implement appropriate placement of land uses, density, and public access to the waterfront.
- Objective 14.1.3** Ensure proposed land uses balance environmental responsibilities and support appropriate levels of development, economic stability, and community needs.
- Objective 14.1.4** Recognize the importance of the waterfront as the community’s “main street” as well as for habitat, historic values, transportation and employment characteristics, and for the aesthetics and viewsapes afforded by the stunning coastline.

14.2 Comprehensive Development Policies

It is the Regional District’s policy to:

- Policy 14.2.1** Identify shoreline areas with high environmental, recreational or aesthetic values and ensure these are protected for appropriate uses.
- Policy 14.2.2** Recognize the importance of the Boardwalk and ensure that future extensions are supported in any West Bamfield waterfront or comprehensive development proposal.
- Policy 14.2.3** Lands designated CDA may contain a mix of land uses including

residential uses, local commercial uses, tourist commercial uses, and light industrial uses as defined in the Zoning Bylaw.

Policy 14.2.4

A CDA may also contain public parks, community service uses, educational and recreational facilities.

Policy 14.2.5

Places for community gathering shall be encouraged in a CDA.

Policy 14.2.6

Walkability and connectedness shall be key features in any proposal.

Policy 14.2.7

A mix of housing types with different target populations (elderly, young workers, affordable housing, and families) shall be supported for development proposals in CDAs to meet changing demographics and a mix of income levels.

Policy 14.2.8

Notwithstanding Policies 14.2.3 through 14.2.7, each proposal for development in lands designated as CDAs shall be evaluated through approved review mechanisms (Advisory Planning Commission, Area Director, Community members, or other formats approved by the ACRD Board) on the unique aspects of each parcel of land, where land uses and lot sizes will be considered for suitability with existing environmental features, historical context, and other unique qualities and characteristics.

Policy 14.2.9

A Development Permit or approval will form part of the Comprehensive Development Agreement and will be based on the report received in accordance with the Development Approval Information Bylaw.

Policy 14.2.10

The Development Permit must be in a form that may be registered on title to the property.

Policy 14.2.11

All applications that include a portion of waterfront lands within this designation must include an analysis of sea level rise (to 2100 or a year that fits the anticipated lifespan of the project).

Advocacy Policies

Policy 14.2.12

Recognize that there are overlapping jurisdictions for the surface of water and the foreshore areas and work with other jurisdictions to ensure that the community's plans are clear and understood.

Policy 14.2.13

Investigate the potential for applying for a UNESCO World Heritage

Site Designation for the community, in recognition of the community's long history as a place of settlement for First Nations people, the historic importance of the Cable Station, and Bamfield's stunning West Coast aesthetics.



West Bamfield

15.0 COMMUNITY SERVICE

There are a number of community service uses or civic uses in the Plan area, and the community has a high level of interest in expanding these uses. In particular, a community centre was frequently mentioned as a desired amenity by many community members. Current community service uses include an elementary school, Coast Guard station, and several community parks. The Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre is the major community service use in the Plan area.

15.1 Community Service Use Objectives

- Objective 15.1.1** Maintain existing community service uses within the Plan area.
- Objective 15.1.2** Encourage the development of new civic and community service uses through development projects and local initiatives, where the use is supported by the community.

15.2 Community Service Use Policies

It is the Regional District's policy to:

- Policy 15.2.4** Support the continued use of the Bamfield School for both educational and social amenity uses.
- Policy 15.2.5** Future community service uses shall be permitted in any Land Use Designation in the Plan area where supported by the community and evaluated by the Regional District on the impact of the proposed development on existing community service uses and other surrounding land uses.
- Policy 15.2.6** Minor public utility buildings and structures, as defined in the Zoning Bylaw, shall be permitted in any land use designation.
- Policy 15.2.7** The development of a new community hall to support community-based activities such as gatherings, markets, and events is fully supported by this Plan.

Advocacy Policies

Policy 15.2.8

The ACRD shall encourage and support the continued operation of the federal government docking facility in Bamfield. Should the federal government elect to dispose of these facilities, the ACRD will seek to ensure these facilities are/become locally administered, maintained and controlled through appropriate agreements.

Policy 15.2.9

The ACRD shall endeavour, with the cooperation of provincial and federal governments to seek fair and equitable solution and compensation for the present tax exemption status associated with Public and Private Utility, Institutional and Educational establishments in the community to enable such organizations to contribute fiscal dollars for community purposes/servicing.

Admiring the view...



16.0 PARKS AND RECREATION

Although there are several community parks, the Plan area is best known for the Boardwalk and proximity to the West Coast Trail. There is high community interest in extending trail systems and acquiring more parkland; multi-use trails are supported, as are areas for passive and active recreation.

16.1 Parks and Recreation Objectives

- Objective 16.1.1** Ensure the continued acquisition of lands for parks, trails, and recreational uses, in appropriate locations and appropriate amounts, to service the community and the community's needs.
- Objective 16.1.2** Encourage a safe and adequate trail system appropriate to the character of the community, and extend the trail system to support the active lifestyle of Bamfield residents.
- Objective 16.1.3** Recognize that permanent residents and seasonal visitors have different amenity needs, and strive to accommodate a range of parks, trails, and amenities that meet these needs.
- Objective 16.1.4** Support public access to the waterfront in appropriate locations.
- Objective 16.1.5** Preserve for passive park and recreation uses, those areas which offer the best examples of the natural environment found in Bamfield. Recognize their value as greenspaces, habitat areas, and for carbon sequestration.
- Objective 16.1.6** Recognize the financial limitations of a small community and of all levels of government for land acquisition, operations, and maintenance.

16.2 Parks and Recreation Policies

It is the Regional District's policy to:

- Policy 16.2.1** Support Centennial Park as the main public park area in Bamfield. This Plan supports:
 - a) Securing the administration and operational requirements associated with both the boat launch facility and the anchoring/mooring buoys and areas adjacent to Centennial Park in Port Desire;

- b) Allowing temporary recreational vehicle camping and tenting facilities where such uses are administered by the Bamfield Parks Commission; and
- c) The use of land for temporary parking relating to boat launching activities in Grappler Inlet, with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure approval.

- Policy 16.2.2** The Regional District will, through its planning, development and political role, pursue the development and operation of a new public park facility accessed from South Bamfield Road in the NW ¼ of Section 18; this parkspace shall be passive with the exception of a non-motorized canoe/kayak launch area, picnic facilities, a limited tent camping area (no serviced sites or recreational vehicle sites), parking, and washrooms. This parkspace shall connect through an upgraded trail system to Brady's Beach and the Cape Beale Headlands. The Regional District will seek available grant funding to aid in the acquisition, design, production, development and operation of such a facility.
- Policy 16.2.3** Support the expansion of a park system on the Crown-owned lands on Mills Peninsula.
- Policy 16.2.4** Investigate community interest in obtaining new parkspaces/trails in the following areas, and implement actions to obtain these lands if they are of interest to citizens in the Plan area:
- a) Lot A Plan 38380, South Bamfield Road
 - b) Westminster Avenue right-of-way between Lots 31 and 32, Plan 942 in West Bamfield to be developed as a raised boardwalk.
 - c) Right-of-way Plan 38971 (Bamfield Road entrance into the community) to be developed as a pedestrian trail.
- Policy 16.2.5** The Regional District will identify appropriate public accesses to the foreshore.
- Policy 16.2.6** Use the Regional Park as well as the Local Park administrative functions to administer and fund the development and operation of parks, trails, and recreation facilities in the Plan area.
- Policy 16.2.7** Investigate and action the most appropriate means by which the Life Saving Trail can be recognized, designated and protected as being of valuable historical significance to the community.
- Policy 16.2.8** Recognize the importance of West Bamfield and East Bamfield parks to residents and tourists by working with the Bamfield Parks Commission

to address appropriate signage for all parks.

Advocacy Policies

- Policy 16.2.9** Initiate discussions with Huu-ay-aht First Nation on the potential of extending the West Coast Trail to Bamfield, and work with Huu-ay-aht First Nation on improving the advertising for the trail through international magazines and websites.
- Policy 16.2.10** Where a waterfront subdivision is proposed and park dedication is required pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, the ACRD shall not necessarily require the consolidation of park strips into larger areas due to the financial and maintenance limitations. Instead, these dedications shall be used primarily to provide open space view areas and access to the waterfront. Where views are to be protected, the Board may request from any developer, a visual analysis indicating existing and proposed structures for the site in relation to views from public roads, waterways and property abutting the subdivision site. This Plan supports the designation of a buffer between the shoreline and the subdivision to maintain public access to the waterfront, protect sensitive habitats, encourage the renewed health of marine vegetation such as eelgrass, support spawning beaches, and to encourage soil stability.
- Policy 16.2.11** Provide for park and recreation use in a manner which recognizes the financial limitations which exist at all government levels and affect land acquisition, operation and maintenance realistically.
- Policy 16.2.12** Support the development of affordable accommodations (i.e. hostel) and other ancillary recreational facilities for hikers who are venturing out onto or who have completed the West Coast Trail to encourage them to lengthen their stay in Bamfield.
- Policy 16.2.13** Advocate for the development of a trail alongside the logging road connecting Bamfield and Pachena Bay to improve pedestrian safety.
- Policy 16.2.14** Lobby Parks Canada to develop their office on current Parks Canada land, adjacent to the Bamfield Marine Centre, for use as West Coast Trail registration.

PART III – PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

17.0 IMPLEMENTATION

Part II of this Plan contains the goals, objectives and policies that are intended to direct the community, its elected officials, ACRD staff and developers in planning and decision-making. Achieving the goals and objectives and pursuing the policies in this Plan requires the formulation of an action or implementation plan in order for the Plan to have the positive impact intended. This section, Part III provides the approach the ACRD will use to implement the Plan.

Implementation can be achieved by the use of a number of methods and tools. The Regional District currently employs its Zoning and Building Bylaws and, in some instances, Development Permit Areas (DPAs), as tools. The intent, exemptions and guidelines for DPAs are outlined below. The approximate locations of DPAs are shown on Map No. 3; the relevant DPA section below should be referred to for specific boundaries of a DPA.

Another tool, the designation of lands as **Development Approval Information Areas (DAIAs)**, is used in this Plan for areas where there is little or no information available on the physical geography of the land, such as physical features, slope stability, and environmental conditions.

For this Plan, all lands are designated as within a Development Approval Information Area, and the ACRD Board will have discretion to consider the information/studies that are applicable to any development proposal and required to enable the full review of the proposal.

Land designated as Comprehensive Development Areas on Map No. 2 are also designated as DAIAs on Map No. 3. This land use designation enables the property owner (or agent) to negotiate and enter into a Comprehensive Development Agreement with the Regional District and to obtain a development permit or approval prior to any development occurring within a CDA.

17.1 Development Permit Areas

Section 488 of the *LGA* allows local governments to designate DPAs for one or more of the following purposes:

- a) protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity;
- b) protection of development from hazardous conditions;
- c) protection of farming;
- d) revitalization of an area in which a commercial use is permitted;
- e) establishment of objectives for the form and character of intensive residential development;
- f) establishment of objectives for the form and character of commercial, industrial or multi-family residential development;
- g) in relation to an area in a resort region, establishment of objectives for the form and character of development in the resort region;
- h) establishment of objectives to promote energy conservation;
- i) establishment of objectives to promote water conservation;
- j) establishment of objectives to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

By requiring a development permit for a project, the ACRD can require a greater level of detail and analysis for a development proposed for lands that are considered to have hazardous or sensitive conditions.

The DPAs, the approximate locations of which are identified on Map No. 3 are:

DPA I	Riparian Areas Protection
DPA II	Natural Hazard Areas Protection
DPA III	Form and Character
DPA IV	Coastal Protection

17.2 DPA General Guidelines

The following General Guidelines apply to DPAs:

- Guideline 17.2.1** Where land is subject to more than one DPA designation, only a single development permit is required and only one permit fee will be charged. However, the application is subject to the requirements of all applicable DPAs.
- Guideline 17.2.2** On existing lots that meet or are less than minimum lot area standards, the location of which limits the opportunity to fully meet development permit requirements, the development permit guidelines should be addressed to the fullest extent within the constraints of the site and lot.

Guideline 17.2.3 The Regional District may consider issuing a development permit to vary or supplement a bylaw or to set standards in accordance with Section 490 of the *LGA*.

Guideline 17.2.4 A development permit is required for the following development activities except where such activities are specifically exempt:

- a) Removal, alteration, disruption, or destruction of vegetation;
- b) Disturbance of soils;
- c) Construction or erection of buildings and structures;
- d) Creation of non-structural impervious or semi-impervious surfaces;
- e) Flood protection works;
- f) Construction of roads, trails, docks, wharves, and bridges;
- g) Provision and maintenance of sewer and water services;
- h) Development of drainage systems;
- i) Development of utility corridors; and
- j) Subdivision as defined in the *LGA*.

17.3 Development Permit Exemptions

The following activities are exempt from requiring a development permit. Despite the exemption provisions, owners must satisfy themselves that they meet the requirements of any applicable federal or provincial regulations.

- i. Residential, commercial, community service uses and industrial development that is shown to be outside of all designated DPAs on a plan prepared by a registered BC Land Surveyor.
- ii. Interior or structural exterior alterations, renovations or repair to a permanent building or structure on an existing foundation to an extent that does not alter, extend or increase the building's footprint or height.
- iii. Planting or replanting of native trees, shrubs or ground cover for slope stabilization, habitat improvement, soil stabilization and/or erosion control.
- iv. Routine maintenance of existing landscaping, lawn, paths or developed areas.
- v. Actively manage priority invasive plants and noxious weeds listed on the Coastal Invasive Species Committee website www.coastalisc.com/priority-invasive-plants.
- vi. The removal of trees determined by a Certified Arborist or Registered Professional Forester, or another professional certified to do tree-risk assessments, to represent an imminent safety risk.
- vii. Stream enhancement and fish and wildlife habitat restoration works carried out under provincial or federal approvals and on provision of evidence of such approvals to the ACRD.
- viii. Emergency procedures to prevent, control or reduce immediate threats to life or property including:
 - a) emergency actions for flood protection and erosion protection;

- b) removal of hazard trees characterized by a Certified Arborist;
 - c) clearing of an obstruction from bridge, culvert or drainage flow;
 - d) bridge and safety fence repairs in accordance with the *Water Act*;
 - e) limbing, pruning and topping of trees where a minimum of 60% of the original crown of any tree is retained to maintain tree health and vigour as prescribed by a Certified Arborist.
- ix. Public works and services constructed following best management practices.
- x. Forestry activities on private lands that are managed under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*.
- xi. Activities permitted by the provincial government on provincial Crown lands.
- xii. Farming activities on land within the Agricultural Land Reserve.
- xiii. Paths for pedestrian use up to 1.0 metres in width provided all of the following are satisfied:
 - a) Constructed exclusively of previous natural materials with no concrete, asphalt, pavers or treated wood;
 - b) Do not entail structural stairs;
 - c) Entail no removal of streamside or lakeside vegetation;
 - d) Do not impair stream bank or lakeside stability;
 - e) Do not impact sensitive habitat; and
 - f) Are specifically designed to discourage motorized vehicle use.

17.4 DPA I – Riparian Areas Protection

Category

In conformance with the objectives of the provincial *Riparian Areas Protection Act*, the ACRD wishes to ensure sufficient water for fish, to protect and restore fish habitat, and to improve riparian protection and enhancement. Therefore, pursuant to Section 488 of the *LGA*, the ACRD designates all riparian areas as DPA I: Riparian Areas Protection.

DPA I areas include all of the lands within 30 metres of rivers and major streams and within 15 metres of minor streams and watercourses and include watercourses, lakes, streams, ponds, and wetlands identified as fish-supportive habitat or connected to watercourses:

- a) for a river or major stream, a 30-metre strip on both sides of the natural boundary of the watercourse;
- b) for a minor stream, a 15-metre strip on both sides of the watercourse measured from the natural boundary;
- c) for a ravine less than 60 metres wide, a strip on both sides of the stream measured from the natural boundary to a point that is 30 metres beyond the top of the ravine bank; and
- d) for a ravine 60 metres wide or greater, a strip on both sides of the stream measured from the natural boundary to a point that is 10 metres beyond the top of the ravine bank.

For purposes of clarity, the above descriptions should be relied upon rather than the riparian areas shown on Map No. 3. The latter is intended as a visual aid only to help locate these areas.

Within the Plan area, “rivers or major streams” includes Bamfield Inlet and Grappler Inlet. “Minor streams and watercourse” include all named and unnamed watercourses, lakes, and wetlands.

Justification

The natural environment is a significant feature of the Plan area. It includes wet aquatic ecosystems that consist of and surround watercourses: streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands and in many cases, ditches. Some of these ecosystems may only be wet during the winter months, drying up in the summer. The geography and vegetation that surrounds, protects and interacts with the aquatic environment is called the riparian area.

Together, the water and the riparian area form aquatic habitat which are critical for the survival of fish, fish supportive processes and are important to maintain biodiversity and essential for many species. Unnecessarily disturbing these sensitive and important aquatic environments may harm their vitality and the ecological services they provide and can have downstream consequences on fish habitat.

Aquatic ecosystems are also critical for the survival of wildlife and form necessary travel corridors between habitats. Water is an important part of maintaining biodiversity and is essential for many species. Many rare species are associated with aquatic environments.

Aquatic ecosystems are natural water purifiers and pollution filtration systems. Healthy aquatic ecosystems have a capacity to retain stormwater runoff, maintain water quality by reducing levels of sediment, nutrients and contaminants in outflow water, to slow water flow and to prevent erosion.

A development permit is required for any development within DPA I to ensure that the ecological values of sensitive riparian and wetland habitats have been considered prior to development, and that measures will be taken to limit or avoid damage to these ecosystems.

The objectives of having these Development Permit requirements include:

- a) Planning and guiding new development in a manner that preserves and protects fish and fish supportive processes, fish habitat and sensitive aquatic ecosystems;
- b) Protecting, restoring and enhancing fish and fish supportive processes, fish habitat and sensitive aquatic ecosystems in a relatively natural state while supporting adjacent land uses;
- c) Meeting the objectives of the *Riparian Areas Protection Act*; and
- d) Protecting water quality and quantity.

Guidelines

- i. Development or alteration should be planned to avoid intrusion into DPA I areas and to minimize the impact of any activity on these areas.
- ii. Within DPA I areas, paths for pedestrian use may be permitted where they are up to 1.0 metre in width, provided all of the following are satisfied:
 - a) constructed exclusively of pervious natural materials with no concrete, asphalt, pavers or treated wood;
 - b) do not entail structural stairs;
 - c) no removal of streamside or lakeside vegetation;
 - d) do not impair stream bank or lakeshore stability;
 - e) do not impact sensitive habitat; and
 - f) no motorized vehicles are permitted.
- iii. Development permit applications that encroach on areas designated as DPA I should include a report prepared by a qualified environmental professional outlining the following information:
 - detailed site plan (1:250 or larger) identifying the natural boundary and a line 30 metres from the natural boundary;

- an impact statement describing effects of proposed development on the natural conditions;
 - measures deemed necessary to protect the integrity of streamside protection and enhancement areas from the effects of development;
 - guidelines and procedures for mitigating habitat degradation including limits of proposed leave areas; and,
 - habitat compensation alternatives, where compensation is approved.
- iv. Development permit applications should include a vegetation management plan indicating the extent of proposed buffer areas and the proposed management of vegetation in these areas.
 - v. Based on the biophysical assessment of the site within an area designated DPA I, works or protective measures such as the planting or retention of trees or vegetation may be required to preserve, protect, restore or enhance stream, watercourses, fish habitat or riparian areas.
 - vi. In the absence of a report from a qualified environmental professional, a minimum buffer of 30 metres should be preserved between the natural boundary of the watercourse and any building or structure.
 - vii. The total amount of impervious cover on property adjacent to a watercourse should minimize impact on the receiving aquatic environment. Consideration should be given to reducing impervious cover through reduction in building footprint and paved areas, exceeding the minimum riparian setback where feasible, and use of on-site infiltration.
 - viii. The construction of a small accessory building such as a pump house, gazebo, garden shed or play house may be permitted if all the following apply:
 - a) The building is located within an existing landscaped area;
 - b) No native trees are removed;
 - c) The building is located a minimum of 15 metres from the natural boundary of a minor stream or 30 metres from the natural boundary of a major stream; and
 - d) The total area of the structure is not more than 9.2 m².

Refer to the provincial ministry responsible for agriculture for setback distances for farm buildings and watercourses on existing farmland and for new agricultural buildings.

17.5 DPA II – Natural Hazard Areas Protection

Category

In accordance with Section 488 of the *LGA*, areas that are or may be subject to flooding, erosion, slides or subsidence, areas within the tsunami-hazard zone and steep slopes with an incline of 30 degrees or more are designated as DPA II, generally as shown on Map No. 3.

Justification

Lands in the vicinity of watercourses can be susceptible to flood hazard and, in certain areas, to erosion or sloughing. Lands that are or may be flooded represent a hazardous condition for permanent structures.

One of the effects of climate change is a rise in sea level. While experts using the best available science are still grappling with a range of possible impacts, current expectations are that the sea level on the west coast of Vancouver Island will rise somewhere in the vicinity of one metre by the year 2100. Any development along the coastline must take this into consideration in an attempt to anticipate and minimize any negative impacts that rising sea levels may have on the built environment and the safety of residents.

The west coast of Vancouver Island, identified as Zone C by the provincial Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, is a high-risk seismic zone, known to be vulnerable to flooding in the event of a tsunami. The ACRD wishes to protect the community against the loss of lives and to minimize property damage, injury and trauma associated with flooding events.

Steep slopes also tend to constitute high-risk areas for erosion and slippage if the tree cover is substantially altered. Potentially hazardous conditions on steep slopes may be avoided if adequate tree cover is retained and surface water runoff is minimized. The toe of the Beaufort Range, for example, is an area where, due to topographic conditions, the possibility of land slippage is considered significant. In order to protect development from these hazardous conditions, development permits are required for areas designated as DPA II.

Guidelines

- i. The development or alteration of land, buildings and structures should be planned to avoid intrusion into DPA II areas and to minimize the impact of any activity on these areas.
- ii. Development permits related to tsunami hazard areas are required in upland areas located between the high tide line and a horizontal distance of 30 metres from the natural boundary of the sea or the furthest extent of the tsunami zone, whichever is greater.
- iii. The recommended flood construction level for coastal areas in the ACRD is 10 metres or as determined by a qualified professional taking into consideration the slope of the land, foreshore conditions, anticipated sea-level rise, storm surges and freeboard, in accordance with the Zoning Bylaw.
- iv. Prior to any development or alteration of land within DPA II areas, a development permit application must be filed that includes an assessment or report by a qualified, licensed professional engineer or other qualified professional addressing the following:
 - a) Contain a description of the methodology and assumptions used to undertake the assessment. The methodology should be described in sufficient detail to facilitate a professional peer review.

- b) Identify any hazards which may affect the safe development of the land including, but not limited to:
 - a. tsunami inundation;
 - b. riparian flooding;
 - c. slopes with an incline of 30 degrees or more;
 - d. subsidence; and
 - e. ground water flows.
- c) Identify the location of all proposed buildings or development sites by specifying setback distances from a natural boundary, property boundary or feature or hazard area. Areas depicted on maps must be delineated with sufficient accuracy and detail to allow the preparation of a legal reference plan for attachment to a restrictive covenant.
- d) Where applicable, flood construction levels should be provided by prescribing an elevation above the natural boundary of a watercourse or natural ground elevation at the building site, where a location is determined to be safe by a qualified professional and in accordance with the Zoning Bylaw and provincial regulations.
- e) An application should identify the location of all proposed buildings and structures on the development site and specify the setback distances from the natural boundary, property boundary, land features, and hazard areas.
- f) The applicant should consider the suitability of the land to accommodate the use intended.
- g) Plans should establish a safe setback line from any watercourses and shorelines to protect the land, buildings and inhabitants from the risk of injury or damage that may, in the opinion of an engineer or qualified professional, be caused by the hazards of flooding, erosion, subsidence earthquake, mud flows or any combination thereof.
- h) The QEP's recommendations and the conclusion of the report should:
 - i. acknowledge that the Approving Officer may rely upon the report when reviewing subdivision applications and/or that the ACRD Board may review the report prior to making land development decisions;
 - ii. certify that the land is safe for the use intended, with probability of a geotechnical failure or another substantial hazard resulting in property damage of less than two per cent (2%) in 50 years or as specified by the most recent edition of the "APEGBC Guidelines for Legislated Landslide Assessments for Residential Developments in BC";
 - iii. identify any deficiency in the design of the buildings, the proposed water, sewer, drainage, access and road works or the construction standards intended for the development;
 - iv. prescribe the geotechnical works and any changes in the standards of the design of the development which are required to develop land, buildings, structures and infrastructure safely for the use intended and to maintain the safety of the land, buildings, structures and infrastructure as a condition of the approval of the development; and

- v. where mitigation works and actions are proposed, describe the effects that the proposed works and actions may have on other properties, including public infrastructure or lands.
- v. Where mitigation works and actions designed to reduce hazards or impacts are contemplated, the applicant's professional engineer should confirm that the works and actions will be acceptable to local government, and that they would meet regulatory requirements, prior to completing the report and a detailed design.
- vi. Plans should include the retention of significant stands of trees, as well as native vegetation, within DPA II areas, as recommended by a QEP.
- vii. Where lands within DPA II areas subject to seasonal flooding are proposed for development, the flood construction level should be a vertical elevation at least four metres (4 m.) above the natural boundary.
- viii. Coastline areas that are subject to flooding should be flood-proofed to the standards specified by the authority having jurisdiction.
- ix. In order to minimize the risk of fire spreading either to or from significant tree cover, new development adjacent to forestry lands is required to plan for a 10-metre fuel-free or fuel-reduced buffer zone between the forested land and any buildings.

17.6 DPA III – Form and Character

Category

In accordance with Section 488 of the *LGA*, the Regional District establishes objectives for the form and character of intensive residential development and objectives for the form and character of development in industrial, commercial and multi-family areas. These areas are designated as DPA III, as shown on Map No. 3. These areas may also be designated as Comprehensive Development Areas as described in Part II of this Plan.

Justification

The purpose of this Development Permit Area is to protect the visual landscape and aesthetic of the Plan area. The community is a stunning example of a West Coast village, with recognition of Huu-ay-aht First Nation's long history in the area, and layers of development that convey a sense of the community's history and growth. From the form of individual housing to the Rix Centre at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, the Plan area is characterized by a strong design aesthetic that should be protected and celebrated. The following guidelines are intended to assist property owners, business owners, architects, landscape architects and other design consultants to understand the community's expectations for future development in the Plan area.

Guidelines

- i. The scale and shape of proposed structures should reflect and relate to adjacent and neighbouring developments as well as to the specific site.
- ii. The shape, siting, roof-line and exterior finish of buildings should be sufficiently varied to avoid visual monotony yet reflect a West Coast experience and tradition as much as possible. The use of wood, wood shingles or shakes, board and batten as external cladding, where appropriate, is encouraged.
- iii. Building siting, form and massing must be responsive to:
 - a. the overall development context and scale of the Plan area;
 - b. adjacent development;
 - c. pedestrian and vehicular access and circulation;
 - d. topography;
 - e. geology/soils conditions;
 - f. hydrology, drainage and flood plain considerations;
 - g. vegetation; and
 - h. views and view corridors.
- iv. The siting of proposed developments should ensure that a harmony of character with adjacent developments is maintained and, where located adjacent to residential uses, that the residential aesthetic is reflected in the intensive residential, commercial or industrial development.
- v. Off-street parking spaces are to be provided in accordance with the Zoning Bylaw.
- vi. Off-street loading spaces are to be provided in accordance with the Zoning Bylaw.
- vii. All signage should be unobtrusive and the use of wood-faced signage is encouraged.

- viii. Bicycle racks for use by the general public should be provided near entries to commercial spaces (stores, restaurants).
- ix. A “Dark Sky” policy is supported for the Plan area. Any outdoor lighting should be directed downward with full cut-off and fully shielded fixtures that provide only the amount of light necessary for safe pedestrian passage at night.
- x. A landscape plan for the development, including the parking area, is to be prepared as an integral part of design and layout and provided to the ACRD. The landscape plan should describe plant species to be used, as well as ground cover specifications. The ACRD strongly encourages landscaping with native vegetation.

17.7 DPA IV – Coastal Protection

Category

In accordance with Section 488 of the *LGA*, the Regional District establishes objectives for the protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity. These areas are designated as DPA IV, generally as shown on Map No. 3.

Justification

This Development Permit Area includes shoreline waters and natural fish and wildlife habitat that could be subject to degradation due to development or harmful uses. Shoreline areas and beaches may contain unstable slopes and soils subject to erosion, land slip and rock falls. In addition, the tidal waters are habitat to a wide range of fish, wildlife, and plant species: eelgrass, in particular, is highly sensitive to negative impacts from intensive uses or development. There are also high aesthetic values along shoreline areas.

Guidelines

- i. This DPA applies to all lands within 30 metres, measured horizontally in both landward and seaward directions, from the natural boundary of the ocean.
- ii. Unless otherwise exempt under 17.3, prior to undertaking any development on the lands within this DPA, the owner of the lands must apply to the ACRD for a Development Permit, and must include the following information with the application:
 1. An assessment report that has been prepared by a Qualified Environmental Professional, with demonstrated experience regarding the subject matter. The assessment report will identify how the proposed development will affect aquatic resources, and recommend measures to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts, such as the:
 - i. Appropriate siting of buildings, structures, private, commercial or group moorage facilities (docks or boat lifts), roads, driveways, parking areas, trails, paths, and utilities;
 - ii. Retention or restoration of native vegetation and soils;
 - iii. Removal of invasive species;
 - iv. Designation of buffer areas to protect environmentally sensitive features or habitat;
 - v. Specification of any activities that may occur within the buffer areas; and
 - vi. Must state that the proposal is suitable for the area intended for development.
- iii. Sites shall be retained in their natural state where possible, preserving indigenous vegetation and trees. If an adequate suitable building envelope exists on a parcel outside of the DPA, the proposed development should be directed to that site or area. Encroachment into the DPA shall only be permitted where the applicant can demonstrate that the encroachment is necessary to protect environmentally sensitive features, due to hazardous conditions or topographical considerations, or to relate the development to surrounding buildings and structures.

- iv. The removal of trees and vegetation within the DPA is discouraged and must be limited to only those areas that must be cleared to support the development. Any clearing required to accommodate roads, buildings, structures, private, commercial or group moorage facilities and utilities, with the exception of necessary hydraulic, percolation, or geotechnical testing, shall only occur until after the issuance of a Development Permit to minimize the potential for soil erosion, runoff and spread of invasive species.
- v. Shoreline stabilization devices are not supported on parcels that are not subject to active erosion nor are they supported on parcels that erode more rapidly as a result of vegetation removal that is not recommended or supervised by a Qualified Coastal Professional.
- vi. Shoreline stabilization devices are supported where a Qualified Coastal Professional, with experience to advise on such matters, has determined that a greenshores approach to shoreline stabilization such as vegetation enhancement, upland drainage control, biotechnical measures, beach enhancement, tree anchoring or gravel placement are not appropriate given site specific conditions.
- vii. Where a shoreline stabilization device is recommended by a Qualified Coastal Professional as a result of an assessment completed, it must be located entirely within the property boundary.
- viii. The assessment for siting a shoreline stabilization device prepared by a Qualified Coastal Professional must include:
 - (i) Assesses the risk of erosion on the subject property and the suitability of the subject property for a shoreline stabilization device;
 - (ii) Analyses of the potential impacts on coastal geomorphologic processes as a result of installing or not installing the device;
 - (iii) Analyses of the potential impacts on adjacent properties as a result of installing and not installing the device;
 - (iv) Recommendation measures to ensure that the subject property is protected while mitigating potential negative impacts on marine riparian areas, coastal geomorphologic processes or neighbouring properties.
- ix. Parking areas shall contain oil/water separators and be landscaped to absorb runoff, and proof of a maintenance program for these will be provided.
- x. The construction of a private, commercial and group moorage facility are permitted in DPA I subject to the following conditions:
 - a) Refer to the Province for General Permission for private moorage facilities, and authorization for Specific Permission, or under the Residential Policy or Commercial Marina Policy for group moorage, or under the Adventure Tourism Policy for moorage for adventure tourism activities, where applicable on Crown land.
 - b) Commercial moorage facilities must be designed and constructed in compliance with the applicable best management practices of the province.
 - c) Before construction of a dock in marine waters the property owner must obtain and adhere to a Marine Habitat Assessment Report for the site which must be completed by a qualified registered professional biologist, where applicable on Crown land.

- d) Shoreline stabilization measures, pilings, floats, docks, boat lifts, wharves and other structures which disrupt light penetration to the water column or obstruct public access to the foreshore are discouraged.
 - e) Impervious surfaces, including materials to construct docks and wharves, shall be kept to a minimum.
 - f) New piers, docks and ramps shall be allowed only for water-dependent uses or for public access, and only permitted when the applicant has demonstrated that a specific need exists to support the intended water-dependent use.
 - g) Docks and wharves shall not extend over marshes or other productive foreshore areas, including critical areas such as eelgrass and kelp beds, shellfish beds, and fish habitats. Wharves shall not, in any case, extend over the water beyond the mean low-water mark, except as necessary to access floats or for public viewing access.
 - h) Piers on pilings and floating docks are preferred over solid-core piers or ramps.
 - i) Boat launch ramps are discouraged and will only be considered if they can be located on stable, non-erosional banks where a minimum amount of substrate disturbance or stabilization is necessary.
 - j) Structures in contact with the water shall be constructed of stable materials, including finishes and preservatives that will not degrade water quality.
 - k) All docks shall be constructed so that they do not rest on the bottom of the foreshore at low water levels.
 - l) Styrofoam used in the construction of floats and docks is discouraged. Any styrofoam, plastic foams or other non-biodegradable materials used in construction of floats and docks shall be fully encased within sealed rigid plastic shells to prevent escape into the natural environment.
 - m) Piers should use the minimum number of pilings necessary, with preference to large spans over more pilings.
 - n) Piers should be constructed with a minimum clearance of 0.5 m above the elevation of the natural boundary of the ocean.
 - o) Preference is given to the placement of mooring buoys and floats instead of docks.
 - p) Placement of docks must remain sensitive to views, impacts on neighbours, and orientation to neighbouring docks.
 - q) Keep the dock and land beneath the dock safe, clean and in sanitary condition.
 - r) New shoreline residential development of two or more dwellings shall provide joint use or community dock facilities rather than individual docks for each residence.
 - s) No more than one facility for mooring boats shall be located on any single lot.
- xi. The consideration of the issuance of a Development Permit by the ACRD in no way exempts the property owner from obtaining all necessary permits and approvals from provincial and federal agencies.

17.8 Development Approval Information

Under Section 484 of the *LGA*, an Official Community Plan may designate areas or circumstances where development approval information is required. For much of the Plan area, the only available contour mapping is the provincial Terrain Resource Inventory Mapping (TRIM) at a scale of 1:20,000 and 20-metre contour intervals. There is little or no scientifically-recorded information related to critical habitat and other ecological resources, hazard areas, and archaeological resources within the Plan area, especially for the southern portions of the Plan area.

In light of the absence of sensitive ecosystem, watercourse and more-detailed contour mapping information, the Regional District designates all lands as within the Development Approval Information Areas (DAIAs) as illustrated on Map No. 3. This is a tool that is appropriate for the provision of information on the site of a proposed development and its impact on natural features, the natural environment including riparian area protection, local infrastructure, and to ensure that the proposed development is protected from hazardous conditions prior to its development, particularly with respect to development lands for which little information is currently available.

Relevant requirements and procedures to require development approval information under Sections 484 and 485 of the *LGA* may be developed for Comprehensive Development Areas (CDAs) and for DPAs as identified in this Plan.

Section 484 of the *LGA* stipulates that, if an OCP designates areas as DAIAs, “the local government must, by bylaw, establish procedures and policies on the process for requiring development approval information ... and the substance of the information that may be required.” The Regional District intends to adopt a Development Approval Information Bylaw to comply with this requirement of the *LGA*.

17.9 Amendment Procedures

An Official Community Plan is, in many respects, a visionary document. It is intended to guide decision-making with regards to land-use development over time. It is impossible, however, to foresee all the possibilities and opportunities that may be presented to the ACRD within the timeframe of the OCP. Changes are inevitable. Changes may be initiated by local residents, the development industry or local government.

Whenever particular provisions of the Plan prove unworkable or inappropriate in view of unanticipated development, events or influences, a review of the relevant objectives and policies of the Plan will be undertaken.

All proposed amendments to the Plan will satisfy the requirements of the appropriate sections of the *LGA*.

17.10 Plan Review

The Official Community Plan should be reviewed at intervals of approximately five years with respect to satisfying the requirement to maintain an adequate supply of residential land. The Plan will be considered for amendment as a result of amendments to the *LGA* as required, general performance, changes to other plans, and bylaws and legislation having an impact on the Plan, as well as its relationship to the current needs and priorities of the community and its residents.