



REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: Curtis Slingerland, Chief Administrative Officer

CC: Board of Directors, Central Coast Regional District

From: Melany Helmer, Senior Local Government Consultant

Meeting Date: April 24, 2025

Subject: Central Coast Fire Service Bylaw 552 for First Reading

Voting Entitlement: All Directors – Unweighted (LGA s. 208 (2) (a))

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to present the Board with “Central Coast Fire Service Amendment Bylaw No. 552, 2025” (“**Bylaw 552**”) for consideration of the first and second reading.

Background Summary:

At the February 27, 2025 Regular Board meeting, the Board of the Central Coast Regional District (“**Board**”) passed the following resolution:

THAT the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District direct that the process be started to amend the service establishment bylaw for the Bella Coola Fire Service Area to bring the Hagensborg Fire Protection Service into the service resulting in one fire service with two fire halls;

Public Engagement: In addition to the public engagement identified in the report entitled, “Fire Services Assessment” considered at the February 27, 2025 Regular Board meeting (Attachment No. 2), public engagement also occurred at the November 14, 2024 Regular Board meeting, when the Board considered a report entitled, “Bella Coola and Hagensborg Fire Services” (Attachment No. 1) and gave direction to staff. Should the Board provide the first and second reading of Bylaw 552, further public engagement is planned between the second and third reading.

Merged Fire Service Name: Currently the wording “Central Coast Fire Service” is included in Bylaw 552. However, further suggestions for a new name for the merged fire Service are welcome and will be considered. The goal is to adopt a name that reflects the future vision of the new Service and is built on the important role of both the existing fire departments.

Options:

Option 1: The Board can provide first and second reading of Bylaw 552.

Option 2: Other Board direction.

Implications:

Option 1: Further public engagement can occur, including with respect to a new name for the merged Fire Service. The merger of the two departments will continue moving forward, with

further reports to the Board at upcoming Board meetings. Staff time and fire personnel time will be involved in continuing with the integration of the two fire services into a functional regional service.

Option 2: The merger of the two fire services will not move forward. Funding for the two services will need to be reconsidered.

Policy, Bylaw or Legislation Considerations:

Local Government Act

Strategic Plan Alignment:

- ☒ Advances Strategic Plan in Category:
 - Responsive Services - To provide services that are responsive to the unique and evolving needs of our citizens and our communities.
- ☐ Regular Business - does not advance Strategic Plan.
- ☐ Consider adding to the Strategic Plan and allocating resources (staff time, funding) to the project.

Recommendation:

THAT Bylaw 552, cited as “Central Coast Fire Service Amendment Bylaw No. 552, 2025” be now introduced and read a first time.

THAT Bylaw 552, cited as “Central Coast Fire Service Amendment Bylaw No. 552, 2025”, having been given due and detailed consideration by the Board be now read a second time.

THAT the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District direct that further public engagement occur between second and third reading of Bylaw 552, including consideration of a new name for the merged Fire Service.

Attached:

1. Staff report entitled “[Bella Coola and Hagensborg Fire Services](#)” presented at the November 14, 2024 Regular Board meeting.
2. Staff report entitled “[Fire Services Assessment](#)” presented at the February 27, 2025 Regular Board meeting.
3. “Central Coast Fire Service Amendment Bylaw No. 552, 2025”

Submitted by: Melany A. Helmer

Melany Helmer, Senior Local Government Consultant

Reviewed by: 

Curtis Slingerland, Chief Administrative Officer