



REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: Board of Directors, CCRD

From: Courtney Kirk, CAO

Meeting Date: September 9 & 10, 2020

Subject: ORDER M192 AND CCRD PUBLIC MEETINGS

Recommendation:

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic continues to place capacity constraints on CCRD's governance and administration;

And Whereas the CCRD Board of Directors have adopted the CCRD COVID-19 Business Continuity and Services Restoration Plan to guide CCRD operational safety for services, administration and governance for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic;

And Whereas the CCRD COVID-19 Business Continuity and Services Restoration Plan's safety guidance for the CCRD main office and board room operates to restrict congestion and maintain physical distancing thereby significantly reducing the number of individuals who may be present in the building at a given time rendering in-person open meetings unfeasible in the CCRD board room;

And Whereas the Province of British Columbia 'Ministerial Order M192 Local Government Meetings and Bylaw Process' empowers local governments to decide when they are ready to safely provide in-person public attendance at open meetings;

And Whereas CCRD continues to post audio recordings of public meetings on its website and provide electronic access to delegates, staff, contractors and inquiring members of the public to its open meetings held by electronic means;

And Whereas CCRD is investing in new software to enhance CCRD use of electronic meetings to facilitate good governance and administrative productivity and to better effect the electronic meeting provisions of the revised CCRD board meeting procedures bylaw generally;

And Whereas CCRD Administration and Governance are making best efforts to explore safe options to expand public participation in open meetings through the duration of the pandemic, including working toward potential live-streaming options;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District continue to hold its open meetings in a manner prioritizing public safety through the duration of the pandemic restricting in-person access to open meetings;

AND THAT CCRD continues to meet the principles of openness, transparency, and accessibility by providing the ability for constituents and delegates to attend public board meeting by request via electronic or teleconference means and posting recordings of public meetings on the CCRD website for public access;

AND THAT CCRD will resume in-person access to open meetings once Public Health Authority and WorkSafe BC recommendations reflect physical distancing is no longer required in response to COVID-19.

Summary:

Ministerial Order M192 – Local Government Meetings and Bylaw Process impacts how local governments are authorized to conduct open meetings. Order M192 requires the CCRD Board to resolve on its commitment to best efforts toward meeting the principles of openness, transparency, and accessibility in fulfilling its open meeting obligations for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Details of provincial recommendations on implementation of Order M192 are available in the Circular from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing dated August 13, 2020 and posted in the CCRD regular September 2020 Board Agenda under Administrative Services.



Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Courtney Kirk, Chief Administrative Officer