# **COMMITTEE REPORT**



Date: March 11th 2021

**RIM No.** 1210-21

**To:** Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)

**From:** Community Planning Department

**Application:** A20-0008 **Owner:** City of Kelowna

Address: 4690 Hwy 97N Applicant: City of Kelowna

**Subject:** Application to the ALC for Exclusion – Mitigation Options

## 1.0 Purpose

To consider mitigation options related to an application to the Agricultural Land Commission for an "Exclusion" under Section 29(1) of the Agricultural Land Commission Act.

### 2.0 Proposal

#### 2.1 Background

At the August 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting staff presented a report to the Agricultural Advisory Committee related to a proposal to exclude 16.2 ha of land from the Agricultural Land Reserve for the purposes of a future transportation corridor (Hollywood Road North) and relocation of the BC Transit Regional Transit Facility (Report is attached as Schedule A). At this meeting the AAC passed the following resolution:

THAT the exclusion of the subject property under Section 29(1) of the Agricultural land Commission Act not be supported.

And the following anecdotal comments were made:

- Concern that a more exhaustive search for a site needed to take place.
- Concern that the agricultural assessment of the property is underestimated

Staff recognize the resolution from the committee made on August 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 regarding the exclusion application and are not asking the committee to reconsider the exclusion application at this time. Prior to asking Council to consider the exclusion application staff have developed several mitigation options related to this application and are asking the committee to consider these mitigation options to provide a recommendation to council regarding the specific mitigation options outlined in this report.

## 3.0 Mitigation Options

The purpose of this report is to outline several mitigation options related to the exclusion application for a regional transit facility previously considered by the Agricultural Advisory Committee. Staff have reviewed the City of Kelowna Agricultural Plan and Official Community Plan for potential implementation projects that could be budgeted for and funded by the City to off-set and mitigate the agricultural impact of the regional transit facility. Agricultural implementation projects have been evaluated in relation to their impact, relevance to the transit project, and feasibility. Three mitigation options are proposed to be considered:

- 1. Creation of a permanent full-time Agricultural Enforcement and Compliance Officer position.
  - a. This position would directly support the City of Kelowna Agriculture Plan action item 1.4a to: Maintain and expand the City's Agricultural Compliance and Enforcement Strategy.
- Commitment to design and install a vegetative buffer around the proposed Transit Facility that meets and exceeds City of Kelowna Development Permit guidelines and best practices found in the Ministry of Agriculture Guide to Edge Planning.
  - a. This would be a direct investment in on-site trees and landscaping in accordance with established guidelines and best practices and would demonstrate how buffering requirements can be achieved.
- 3. Creation of an agricultural signage program to design and install signage in strategic high visibility areas to promote and protect agriculture.
  - a. This aligns with the City's Agriculture Plan Action item 3e: Evaluate an agricultural signage program to raise awareness and appreciation for agricultural areas within the City.

Prior to asking council to consider the proposed exclusion application related to the transit facility staff are asking the AAC to provide an additional recommendation to Council if they support or not support the three specific mitigation options above.

**Report prepared by:** Alex Kondor, Planner Specialist

**Reviewed by:** Dean Strachan, Community Planning & Development Manager

**Approved for Inclusion:** Terry Barton, Development Planning Department Manager

#### Attachments:

Attachment A – August 13th 2020 AAC Report