



**Agricultural Land Commission**  
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June 1, 2017

ALC File: 46602

Tracy Guidi  
Sustainability Coordinator | City of Kelowna  
1435 Water St  
Kelowna, B.C.  
V1Y 1J4

**Re: Draft City of Kelowna Agriculture Plan**

Thank you for forwarding a draft of the City of Kelowna's draft Agriculture Plan for the Agricultural Land Commission's (the ALC's) review and comment. The ALC is very pleased that the City has taken the initiative to update the 1998 Agriculture Plan and offers the following comments for the City's consideration.

The ALC confirms that the policies and action items identified in the plan document are supportive of agriculture, the goals of the ALC Act, and consistent with many of the bylaw recommendations provided by the ALC to the City in the past decade.

The ALC reaffirms that it considers the proposed following actions to be a priority and a significant benefit to preserving farmland and encouraging farming:

- 1) amending the City zoning bylaw(s) to establish restrictions on the number, size and location of residential structures in the ALR;
- 2) amending the zoning bylaw to increase the minimum parcel size in Agriculture zoned areas to 4 ha (from the current 2 ha);
- 3) bringing all bylaws into consistency with ALC regulations and Ministry of Agriculture bylaw standards.

One policy which is not specifically articulated, but which might bear consideration, is to investigate options for establishing bylaw/administrative processes to ensure that additional dwellings requested for farm help are vetted by the ALC, rather than justified through landowner representation, parcel size, or whether the property has "Farm" assessment status. One option might be to adopt a requirement that all permanent "*additional dwellings for farm help*" be considered through the ALC non-farm use application process (this would not apply to temporary farm worker housing). The ALC would be pleased to provide further advice on the issue, should it be desired.

The ALC also finds it commendable that the Agriculture Plan identifies staffing levels to ensure the implementation of Plan's recommended actions. It strongly recommends that Kelowna Council make it a priority to assign the appropriate resources to ensure that the Agriculture Plan is implemented.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions about the ALR, or the above comments, please direct them to Martin Collins at ([martin.collins@gov.bc.ca](mailto:martin.collins@gov.bc.ca)) or 604-660-2554.

Yours truly,

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION

Per: 

Martin Collins, Director of Policy and Planning

cc: Anne Skinner, Ministry of Agriculture, Kelowna



## The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association

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July 20, 2017

Tracy Guidi  
Sustainability Coordinator  
City of Kelowna  
1435 Water Street,  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4

Dear Tracy:

### Re: City of Kelowna Agriculture Plan

The BC Fruit Growers Association appreciates the priority and the enormous effort that the City has given to the Agriculture Plan, published May 2017. The plan reflects the current situation and promotes the economic contribution of the agriculture sector in Kelowna. The plan was developed with extensive consultation and went through several iterations to ensure the plan considered the input of all people and groups participating in the process.

The goals of the plan are to

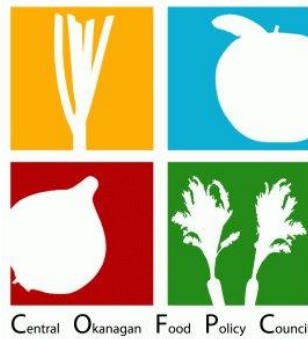
1. Develop clear policies that serve to protect and promote agriculture;
2. Identify opportunities to strengthen farming as an economic driver;
3. Increase the amount of, and access to, locally grown and produced food;
4. Promote and celebrate the agricultural character of Kelowna;
5. Build resilience in communities against rising costs of food and risks from climate change.

The BCFGa strongly endorses all of these goals, and we sincerely appreciate the leadership of the municipality in establishing these goals.

The BCFGa is pleased to support and endorse the Agriculture Plan developed by the City of Kelowna. We look forward to working with the City in ensuring the Agriculture Plan is successful through its implementation and positive impact on agriculture in the City of Kelowna.

Sincerely,

Fred Steele  
President



June 27, 2017

Kelowna City Council  
City Hall  
1435 Water Street  
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 1J4

Re: Agriculture Plan 2017 Staffing Levels

Dear Mayor Basran and City Council:

I am the Chairperson of the Central Okanagan Food Policy Council ("COFPC"). We are a non-profit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors that includes individuals from various sectors of the food system. We can best be described as an "umbrella organization" to bring together citizens, groups and organizations who are passionate about moving towards a resilient and vibrant food system in the Central Okanagan. Our mission is to "nurture a just and sustainable food system through policy, education and food action." Food Action Projects that began as initiatives of our organization include the Okanagan Fruit Tree Project, the Central Okanagan Community Farm and the Food Forest at Mission Creek Park.

I am writing on behalf of the COFPC Board of Directors to advocate for implementation of the Kelowna Agriculture 2017 plan in an efficient and timely manner. Many aspects of this plan align closely with our vision for a resilient food system. These aspects include food security for all citizens, stewardship of our agricultural land, a strengthened local food economy and mitigation of negative impacts of the food system on our natural and built environments. In short, we have a strong interest in seeing this well-crafted Agriculture Plan achieve momentum as soon as possible.

The Agriculture Plan stipulates staffing levels of 1.0 FTE for a City Planner and 0.5 FTE for a Bylaw Officer. These appear to be minimum requirements given the number and scope of the changes that are recommended in the report. The COFPC is also aware that the city will be developing and moving forward with a Healthy Food System Strategy. The related policy documents of this strategy will address food security and sustainable food system issues. Additional staffing beyond the minimums recommended in the 2017 Agriculture Plan could help to ensure that both the Agriculture Plan and the Healthy Food System Strategy are implemented in a timely manner. In turn, this would demonstrate that the City is committed to upholding the mission statement of the Agriculture Plan and to ensuring food security and a sustainable future for agriculture in Kelowna.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Directors of the COFPC,  
Linda Trepanier  
Chairperson  
Central Okanagan Food Policy Council  
Kelowna, B.C.  
cofpcs@gmail.com