

DATE: October 12, 2017

FILE: 7200-02

TO: Chair and Directors
Electoral Areas Services Committee

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. DYSON

RE: Forbidden Plateau Fire Service – Letter and Signatures

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present a petition to the Electoral Areas Services Committee that requests a study for fire protection on Forbidden Plateau Road.

Recommendations from the Chief Administrative Officer

THAT a feasibility study be conducted to explore options associated with fire protection services on Forbidden Plateau Road, including, but not limited to, impacts to existing and future land use activities, the potential expansion of existing fire protection boundaries, a first responder vehicle located on Forbidden Plateau Road or a volunteer fire department;

AND FURTHER THAT up to \$15,000 be committed to this project from the Electoral Area C feasibility study fund.

Executive Summary

A petition signed by 42 individuals in the Forbidden Plateau Road area was submitted to the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) on October 10, 2017. The petition itself is available to directors however not attached to this staff report to protect personal information. The petition includes the following statement and includes signatures from properties ranging from the 4000 block to the 8000 block of Forbidden Plateau Road as well as properties on Mountain Spirit, Mystic Rise, Bradley and Grouse Roads:

2017 Petition for a Comox Valley Regional District Feasibility Study of Fire Protection Services on Forbidden Plateau Road

Current fire protection zoning on Forbidden Plateau Road does not provide coverage to residents above 5200 Forbidden Plateau Road. This means that if one of the homes above 5200 Forbidden Plateau Road is in need of emergency fire services there will be no response from Comox Valley Fire Departments. Homes above 5200 Forbidden Plateau Road are designated “outside the fire protection area”.

Please sign this petition to demonstrate to members of the CVRD and Director Edwin Grieve (Puntledge-Black Creek Electoral Area C) that you support a feasibility study sponsored by the Comox Valley Regional District to explore an expansion of fire protection services to Forbidden Plateau Road. The feasibility study could include reviewing options such as: an expansion of the service delivery area by one of the four Comox Valley fire departments, first responder vehicle on Forbidden Plateau Road, a volunteer fire department.

Options available to the CVRD include receiving the petition and taking no further action or initiating a feasibility study to consider options and related costs and benefits. Staff recommend conducting a study that is funded from the Electoral Area C feasibility study fund for up to \$15,000.

The CVRD provides fire protection services as noted below:

- Hornby Island delivered by Hornby Island Fire Department
- Denman Island delivered by Denman Island Fire Department
- Black Creek - Oyster Bay delivered by Oyster River Fire Rescue
- Fanny Bay delivered by Fanny Bay Fire Department
- Tsolum-Farnham delivered by contract with City of Courtenay
- Merville delivered by contract with City of Courtenay
- Bates/Huband delivered by contract with Town of Comox
- Rural Cumberland delivered by contract with Village of Cumberland
- Mount Washington service delivery pending

In addition, fire protection improvement districts exist as Courtenay Fire Protection District, Comox Fire Protection District, Ship's Point Improvement District and Union Bay Improvement District.

A map showing Comox Valley fire protection is attached to this report as appendix A.

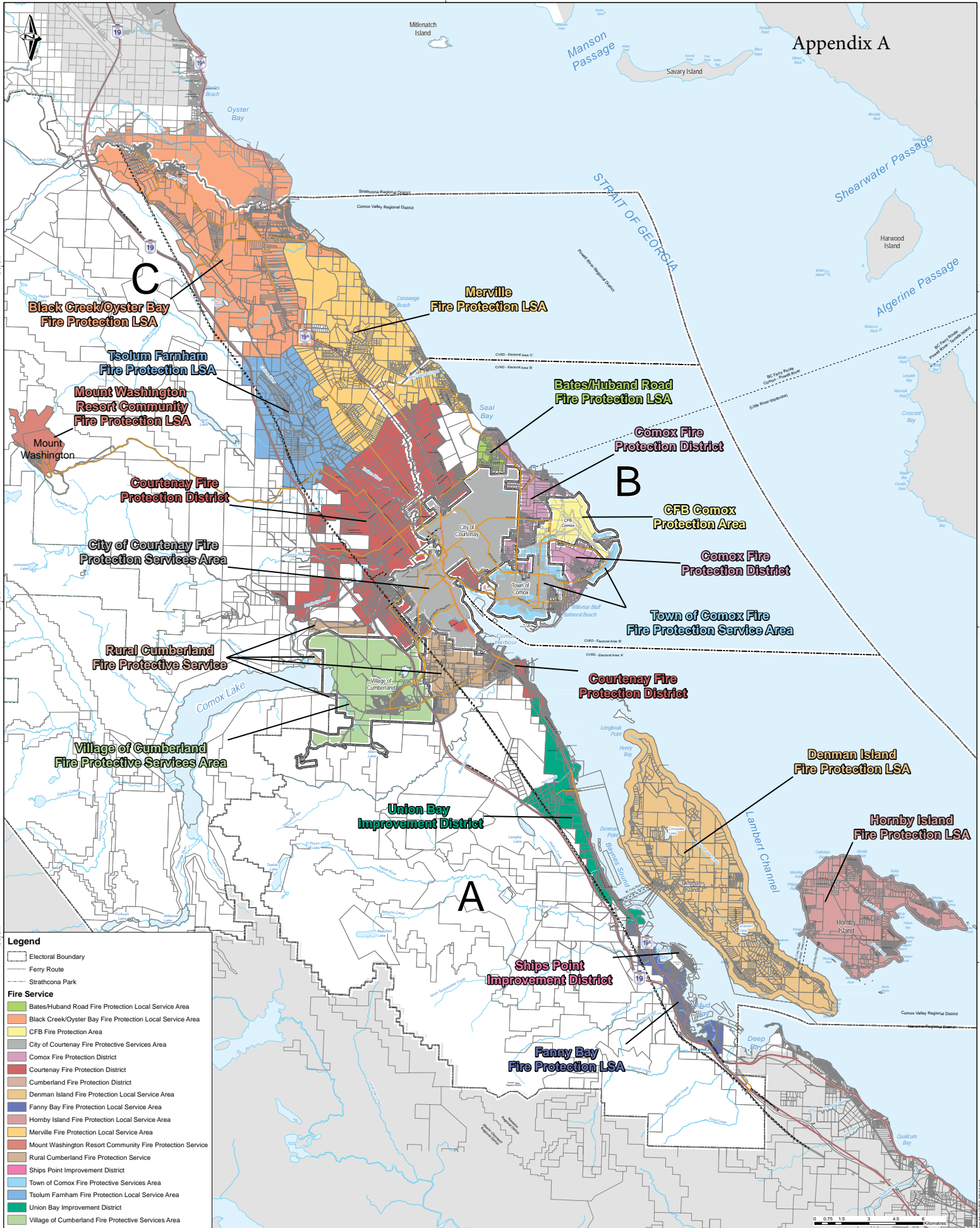
A feasibility study will seek to provide information about options for fire protection in the Forbidden Plateau area, including an analysis of the Comox Valley Regional Growth Strategy and impacts to land use and development in the area. It is expected that a small amount of work could be conducted in 2017 however the remainder of the work would occur in 2018 and findings would then be presented to the Forbidden Plateau community and Electoral Areas Services Committee.

Prepared by:

J. WARREN

James Warren
General Manager of Corporate
Services

Appendix A – “Map of Comox Valley fire protection”



Legend

- Electoral Boundary
- Ferry Route
- Strathcona Park

Fire Service

- Bates/Huband Road Fire Protection Local Service Area
- Black Creek/Oyster Bay Fire Protection Local Service Area
- CFB Fire Protection Area
- City of Courtenay Fire Protective Services Area
- Comox Fire Protection District
- Courtenay Fire Protection District
- Cumberland Fire Protection District
- Denman Island Fire Protection Local Service Area
- Fanny Bay Fire Protection Local Service Area
- Hornby Island Fire Protection Local Service Area
- Merville Fire Protection Local Service Area
- Mount Washington Resort Community Fire Protection Service
- Rural Cumberland Fire Protection Service
- Ships Point Improvement District
- Town of Comox Fire Protective Services Area
- Tsolum Farnham Fire Protection Local Service Area
- Union Bay Improvement District
- Village of Cumberland Fire Protective Services Area