

PL5.7 Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Landowner Exclusion Application Policy



Regional Board Policy

Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Landowner Exclusion Application Policy

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| Category: Land Commission Applications | Policy Number: 2021-10B-11 | Replaces: |
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| Office of Primary Responsibility: Planning Services | | |
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PURPOSE:

As of September 30, 2020, through implementation of amendments to the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Agricultural Land Reserve Regulation, the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) will no longer accept Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Exclusion Applications from private landowners.

Recognizing that the ALC is the agency responsible for undertaking ALR boundary reviews at a regional scale, this policy establishes a procedure and set of criteria for the CRD to follow when responding to requests from private landowners to exclude their property from the ALR.

POLICY:

1. Official Community Plan and Rural Land Use Bylaw Areas:

For landowner ALR exclusion requests within Official Community Plan (OCP) or Rural Land Use Bylaw (RLUB) areas:

- a) CRD Staff will require an OCP/RLUB amendment application from the landowner, identifying the property for future ALR exclusion.
- b) CRD Staff and the Board will consider the OCP/RLUB amendment application against the following criteria:
 - i) OCP/RLUB Agricultural Policies.
 - ii) Agricultural soil class rating.
 - iii) Size of parcel.

- iv) Topography of land and suitability for agriculture.
 - v) Potential impact of the exclusion on surrounding ALR lands.
 - vi) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) and Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) comments when the application is referred for comment.
 - vii) Whether the proposed exclusion has a broader community value.
- c) At regular intervals (3 to 5 years), staff will present to the Board for consideration under regular annual business planning and budget procedures, the number of parcels identified within OCPs and RLUBs for inclusion and exclusion from the ALR, along with the estimated time and costs for staff to make such application(s) to the ALC. Subject to Board approval, staff will make the necessary ALC applications in that years' business plan.
- d) Staff will continue to conduct a high-level analysis on all ALR boundaries during regular OCP/RLUB update projects. OCP/RLUB updates will be scheduled through normal annual department business planning practices.
- i) Staff (with Board approval) may consider resourcing detailed ALR boundary review projects on an OCP/RLUB area-wide basis, with coordination and support of Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the ALC, if appropriate.

2. Areas Outside OCP and RLUB Areas:

For landowner ALR exclusion requests not within Official Community Plan (OCP) or Rural Land Use Bylaw (RLUB) areas:

- a) Where no current project to expand OCP/RLUB boundaries is underway, staff will bring the landowner exclusion proposals to the Board to consider resourcing along with proposals identified in 1(c) above.
- b) Where a current project expanding OCP/RLUB boundaries is underway, the proposal will be brought forward to the Board as an OCP/RLUB amendment application upon completion of the project.

***** END OF POLICY *****

| <u>Amended (Y/N)</u> | <u>Date Reissued</u> | <u>Authority (Resolution #)</u> |
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| Adopted – New Policy | October 22, 2021 | 2021-10B-11 |