



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee
From: Amarjeet S. Rattan
Director, Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol Unit
Date: April 21, 2015
File: 01-0150-03/2015-Vol 01
Re: **Proposed Revised Provincial Electoral Boundaries**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled, "Proposed Revised Provincial Electoral Boundaries" dated April 21, 2015 from the Director, Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol Unit be received for information.

Amarjeet S. Rattan
Director, Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol Unit
(604-247-4686)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Planning	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

This staff report is in response to the following referral from the April 7, 2015 General Purposes Committee meeting:

That the Proposed Revised Provincial Electoral Boundaries be referred to staff for further analysis and to report back to Committee.

Findings of Fact

Since 1965, eight independent Electoral Boundaries Commissions (EBC) have been appointed in British Columbia.

British Columbia is currently divided into 85 areas called electoral districts. Each electoral district is represented by one Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). Every eight years an independent commission reviews the electoral district boundaries and names. This ensures that each MLA represents about the same number of people.

Richmond Electoral Boundaries

The 1966 EBC recommended that the electoral district of Delta be divided into four: Richmond, Delta, Surrey and Langley. The Richmond district would correspond exactly with the boundaries of the City of Richmond, while the Delta district would include all of the municipality of Delta, the south-western portion of Surrey (Crescent Beach) and White Rock. The Legislative Assembly adopted the commission's recommendations

The 1984 EBC recommended that a second MLA be added to 11 electoral districts, including Richmond and Delta. The Legislative Assembly adopted the commission's recommendations.

The 1988 EBC added a third MLA for Richmond because of the area's growing population and proposed names of Richmond East, Richmond North and Richmond South. The Legislative Assembly adopted these recommendations but changed the names to Richmond East, Richmond Centre, and Richmond-Steveston .

The 1999 EBC noted wide population disparities among the three Richmond electoral districts. For example, Richmond East (which had been identified by the municipality as the likely site of high growth in the future) had a deviation of plus 17.3 percent, while Richmond-Steveston had a deviation of minus 10 percent. The commission recommended that the boundary between Richmond Centre and Richmond Steveston be moved further north, so that it ran east along Blundell Road to Garden City Road, and from there north on Garden City Road (instead of No. 4 Road) to Sea Island Way.

On May 9, 2014 the current EBC, the Melnick Commission, was appointed to review the area, boundaries and names of provincial electoral districts to be used for the 2017 and 2021 Provincial General Elections. The commission may recommend to the Legislative Assembly up to two additional electoral districts be created, to a maximum of 87 electoral districts.

Analysis

On March 26, 2015, the Province released the EBC's *Preliminary Report – 2015 British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission*, which includes proposals to add one electoral district both to Surrey and Richmond.

The following excerpt from the Preliminary Report summarizes the proposed changes for Richmond:

Two of Richmond's current three electoral districts already have exceeded the allowable population deviation and are projected to see significantly more growth. However, the population of Richmond does not warrant four electoral districts contained within Richmond's municipal boundaries. At 29.65%, the current electoral district of New Westminster also exceeds the +/- 25% deviation. Although the city of New Westminster historically has had an electoral district that matches its municipal boundaries, its population has now grown too large to maintain this. We heard from numerous members of the public that the Queensborough neighbourhood of New Westminster on Lulu Island has ties to Richmond in addition to its ties to the rest of New Westminster and that if changes to New Westminster are required, Queensborough residents could be effectively represented in a Richmond-Queensborough electoral district. Therefore we propose combining the Queensborough neighbourhood with the East Richmond neighbourhood on Lulu Island. This shift brings New Westminster within the +/- 25% deviation range without requiring any further changes.

With the addition of Queensborough, the population of the entire Lulu Island now warrants a fourth electoral district. Our proposals combine Queensborough with the Hamilton neighbourhood of Richmond, most of East Richmond and a small part of the South Arm community. We call this electoral district Richmond-Queensborough.

The community known as Richmond City Centre is the most populous part of the city and is also the fastest growing. Our proposals proportion this very dense community between two electoral districts.

Richmond North Centre includes the area north-west of Richmond City Hall, including Sea Island. Richmond South Centre is oriented south-east of Richmond City Hall.

Our proposals largely retain the existing Richmond-Steveston electoral district as it is. However, to allow for future growth we have removed three blocks in the north-east of the district north of Francis Road and east of No. 2 Road from the current Richmond-Steveston and placed this area in Richmond South Centre.

The proposed new boundaries for the Richmond ridings differ slightly from what the City had submitted to the EBC in October, 2014, but result in four electoral districts that are reasonable and supportable, as they each are within the Provincial Electoral Population Quota of 54,369 (+/-25%).

The following table outlines the electoral district populations figures (2008-2014) on which the EBC is basing their proposed electoral boundary revisions for Richmond:

Electoral District Name	2008 Population	2014 Population	Population Change	Deviation (#)	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)	Within a defined region?
New Westminster	58,549	68,956	10,407	14,587	26.83	18	
Richmond Centre	59,166	70,374	11,208	16,005	29.44	374	
Richmond East	57,798	69,599	11,801	15,230	28.01	92	
Richmond-Steveston	57,497	63,004	5,507	8,635	15.88	31	

Details of the current electoral district map boundaries for Richmond-Steveston, Richmond Centre, Richmond East and New Westminster are provided in Attachment 1.

Details of the proposed electoral district map boundaries for Richmond-Steveston, Richmond North Centre, Richmond South Centre and Richmond-Queensborough are provided in Attachment 2.

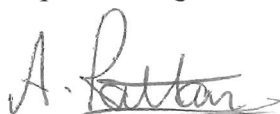
The EBC recently held a public hearing in Richmond on Friday, April 17, 2015 regarding these proposed electoral boundaries. The hearing was attended by community members and organizations from both Richmond and New Westminster. The submissions made at this hearing were unanimous in support for the proposal to create a new riding for Richmond.

Financial Impact

No financial impact.

Conclusion

The EBC is proposing to add a fourth electoral district to Richmond. The City has previously made a submission to the EBC, supporting the creation of an additional new riding. Submissions may be made to the EBC (through their Web site www.bc-ebc.ca or by email at info@bc-ebc.ca) until May 26, 2015. The Commission will submit its report recommendations to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly by September 25, 2015. The final decision lies with the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Once approved, the new boundaries will come into effect, at the time of the next provincial general election in 2017.

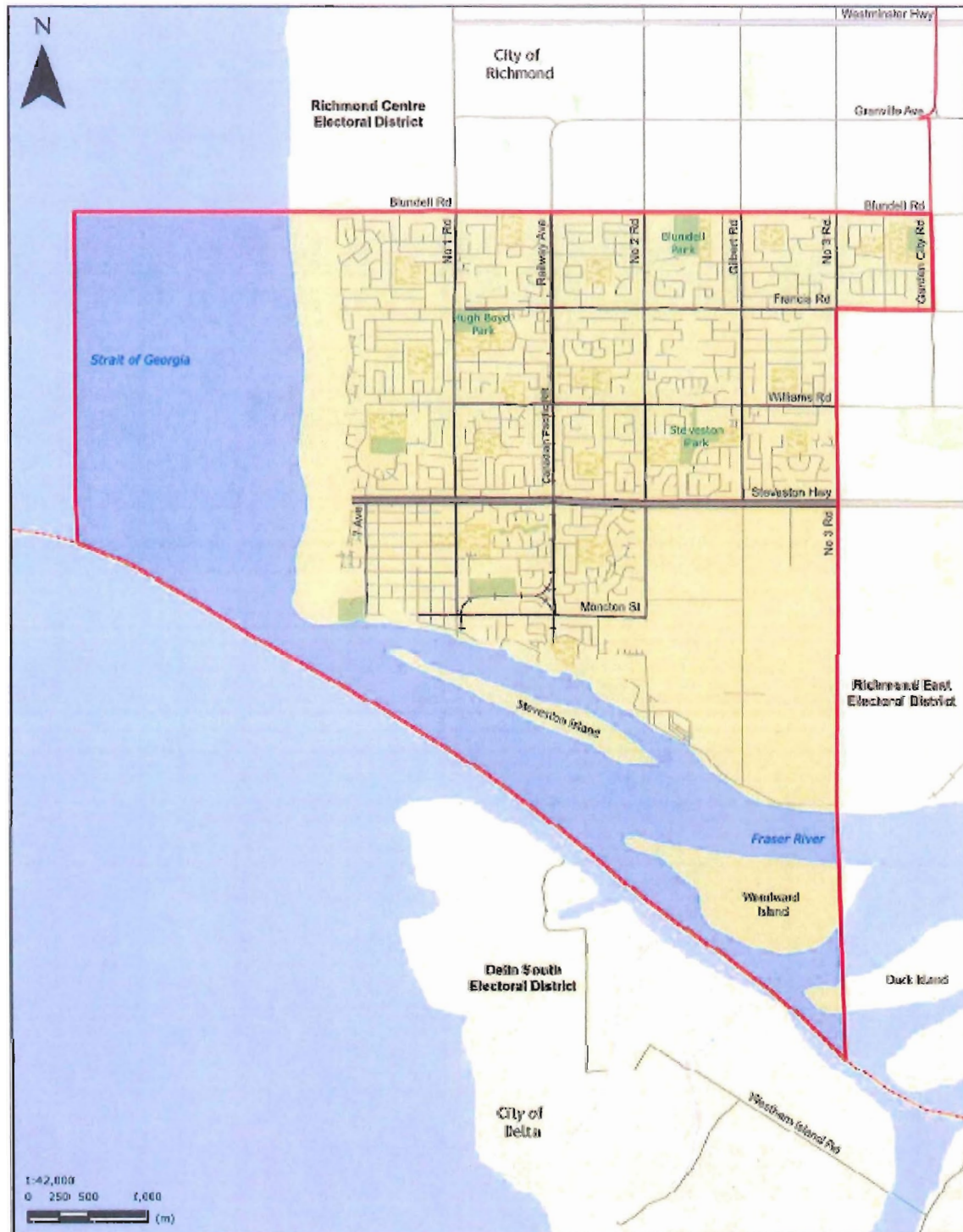


Amarjeet S. Rattan
Director, Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol Unit
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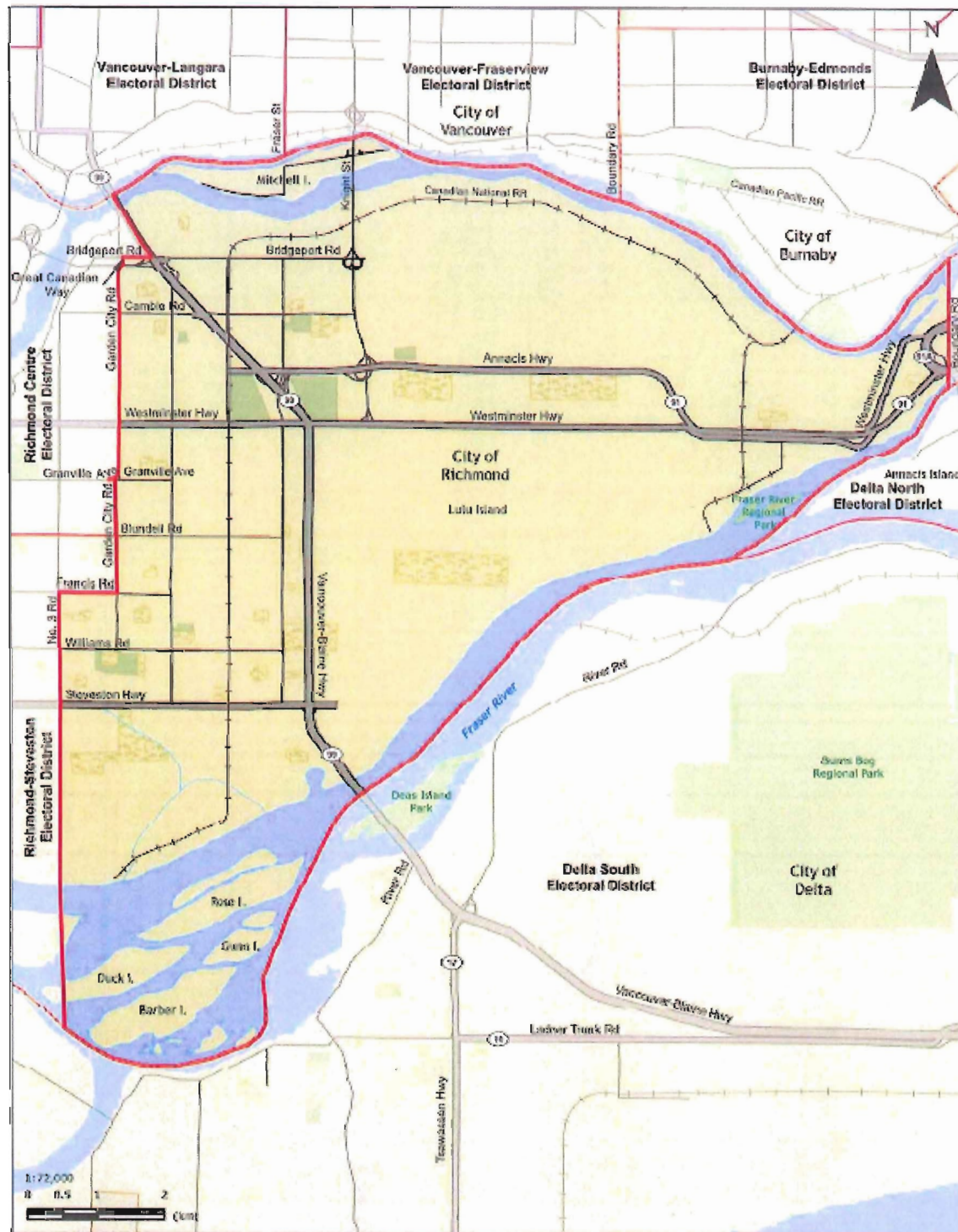
- Att. 1: Current Richmond Electoral Boundaries
2: Proposed New Richmond Electoral Boundaries

Richmond-Steveston Electoral District Map Redistribution 2008

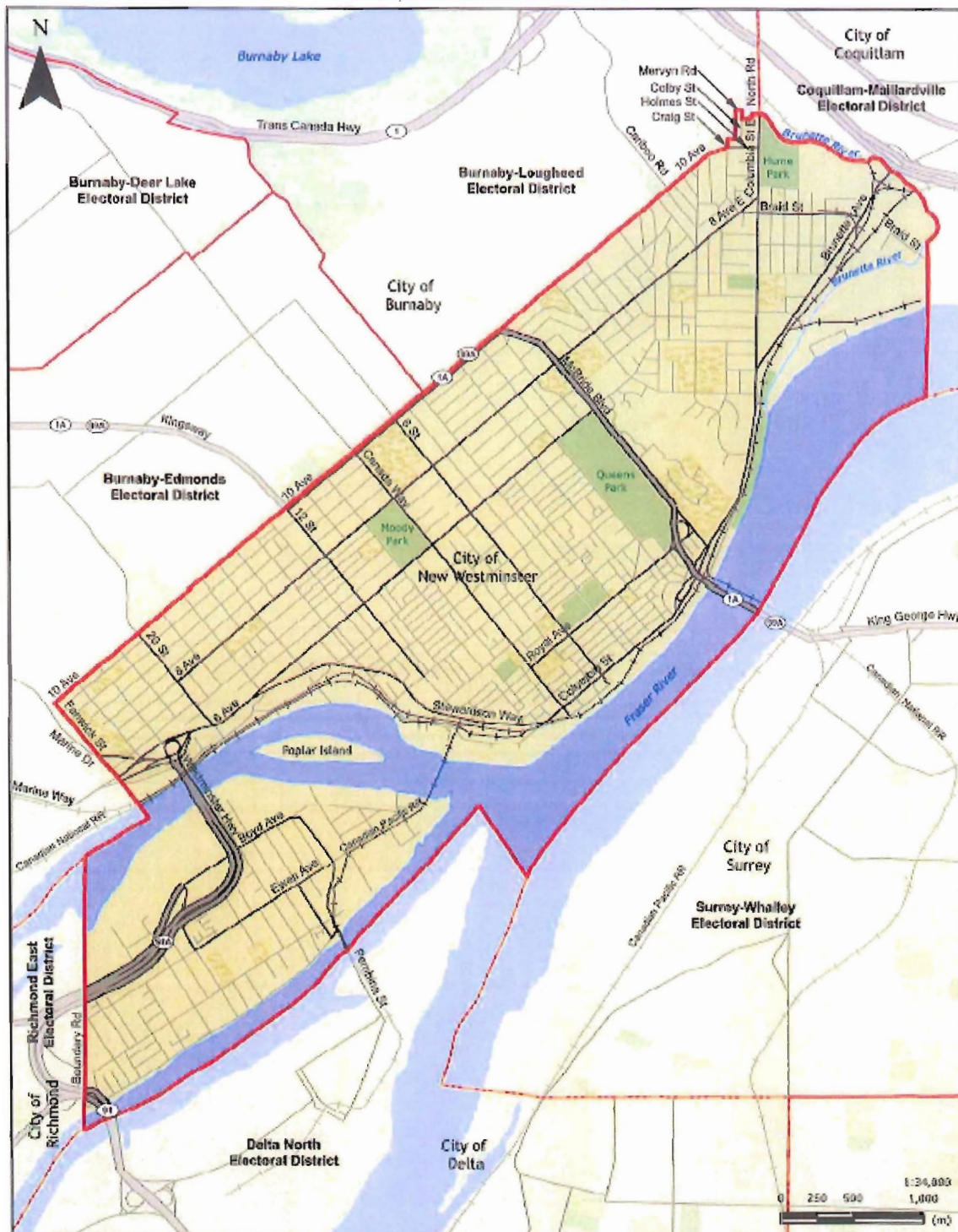




Richmond East Electoral District Map Redistribution 2008



New Westminster Electoral District Map Redistribution 2008



Proposals – Lower Mainland

Richmond-Steveston

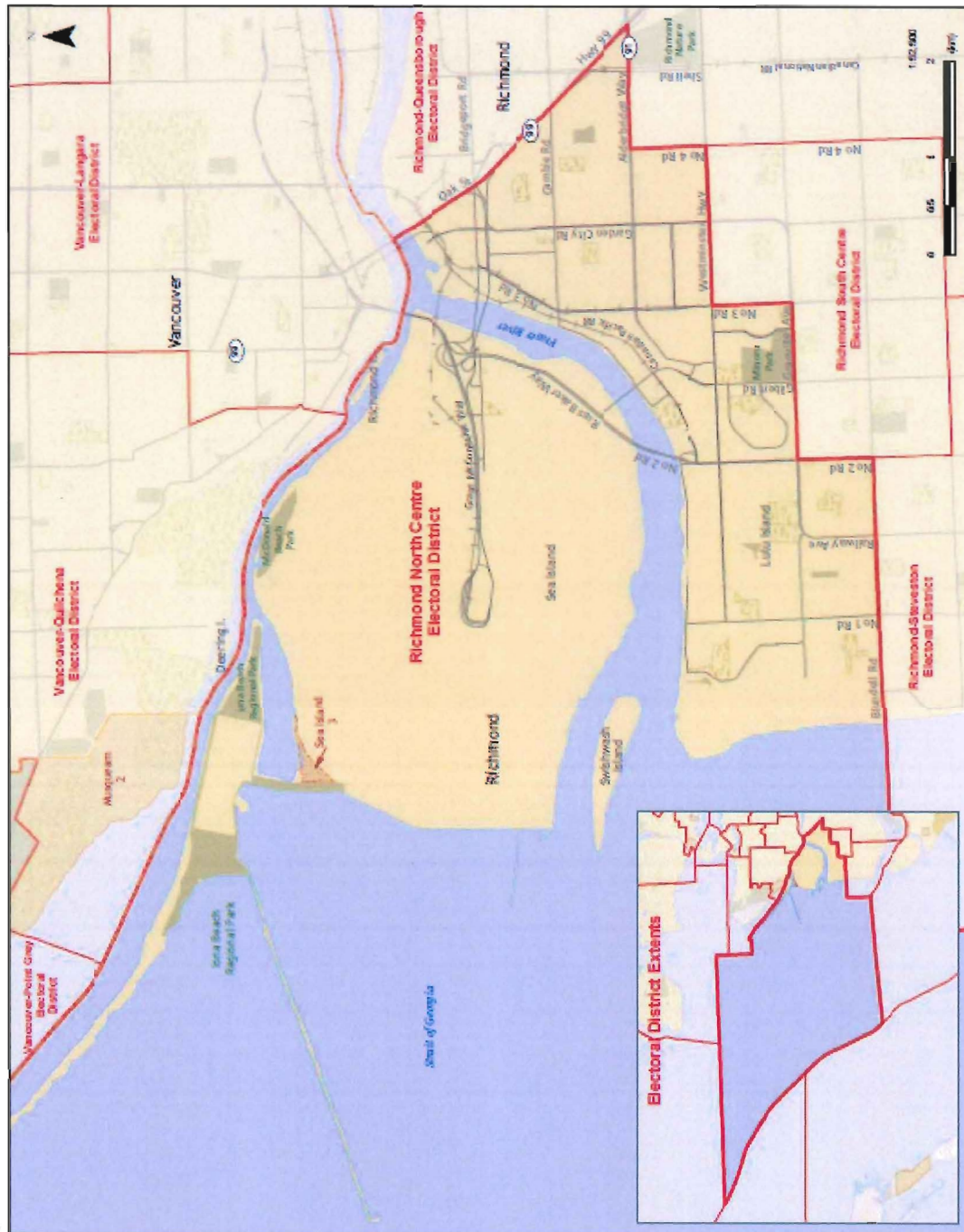


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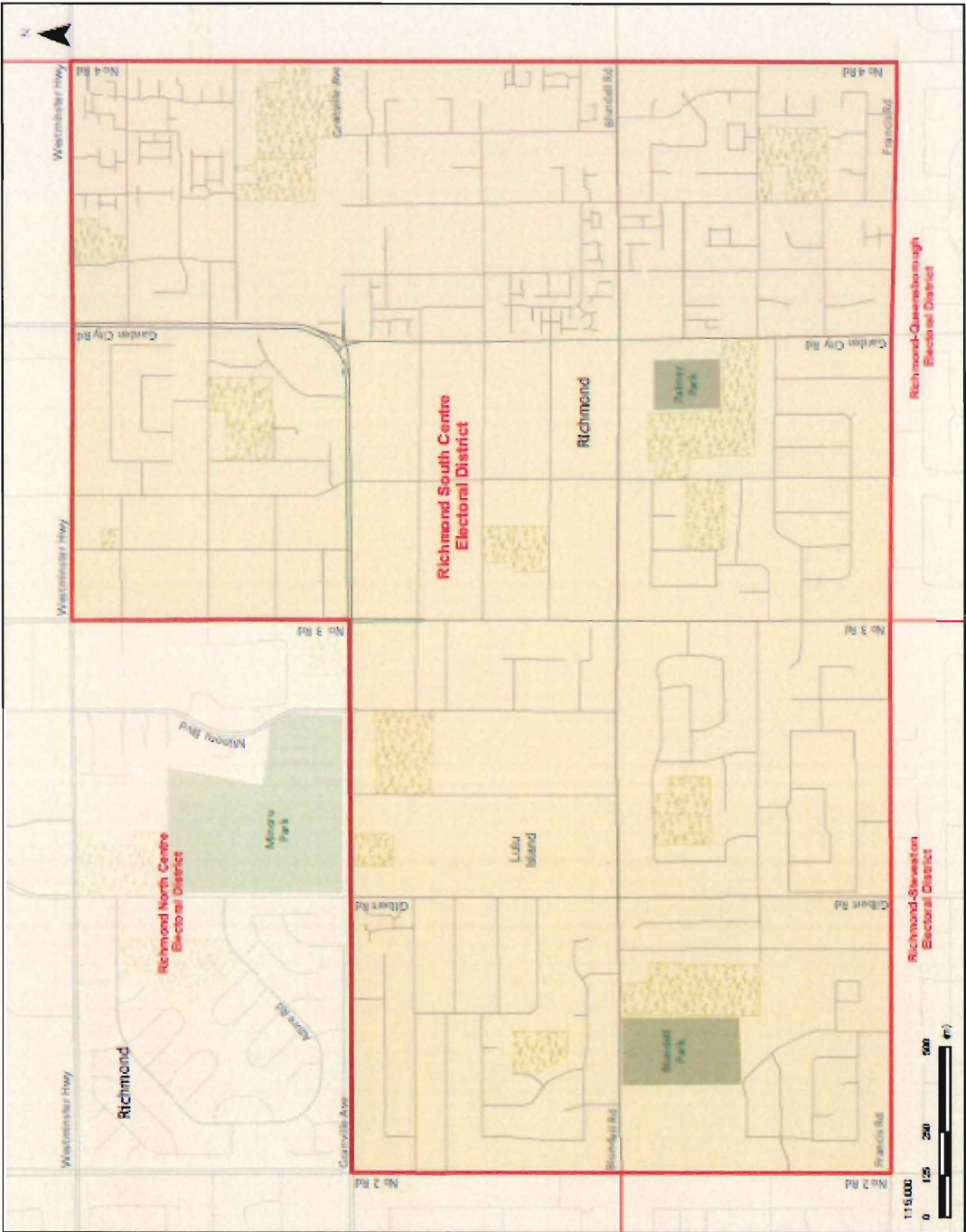
Proposals – Lower Mainland

Proposals – Lower Mainland

Richmond North Centre

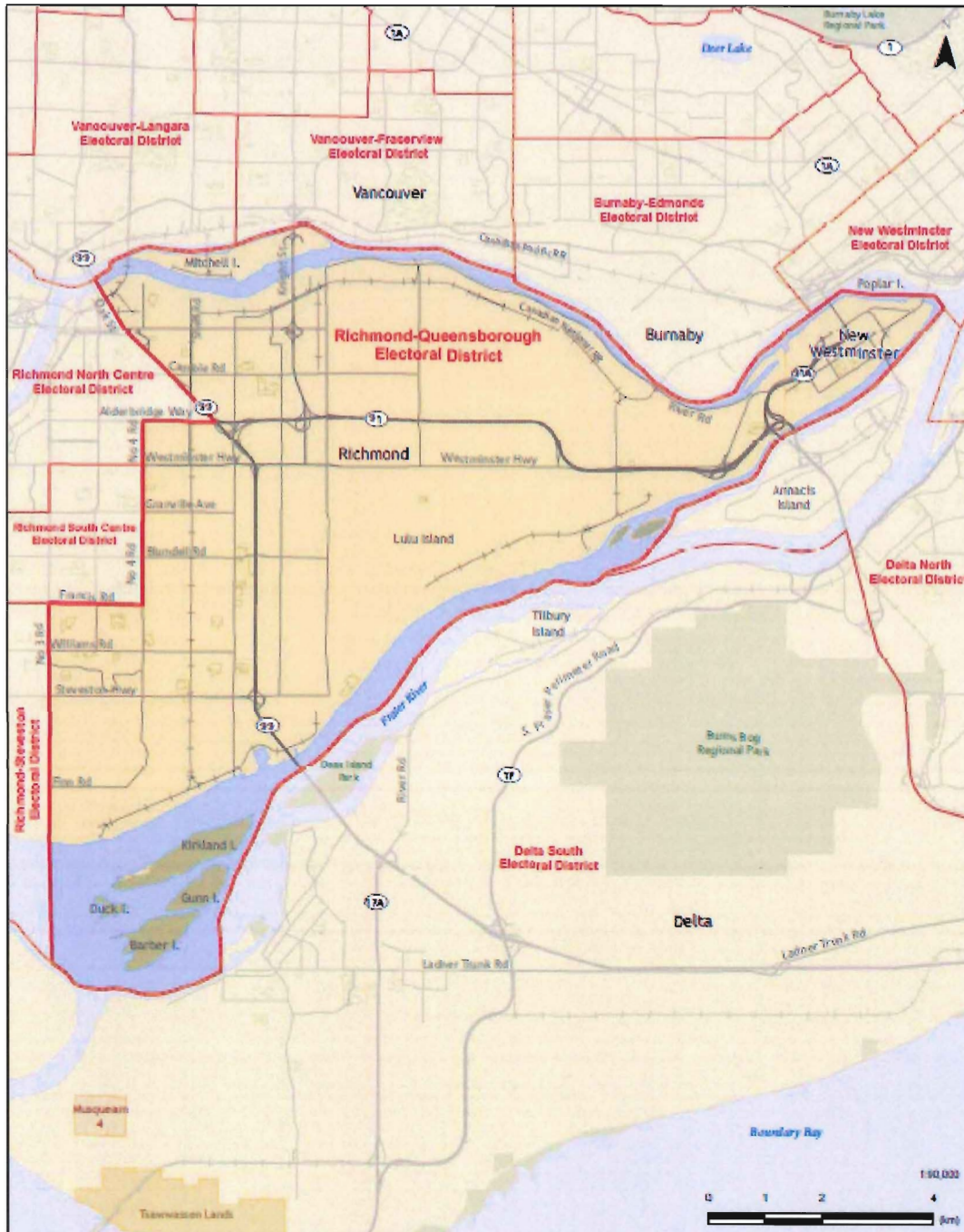


Proposals – Lower Mainland
Richmond South Centre



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Proposals – Lower Mainland
Richmond-Queensborough



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Proposals – Lower Mainland