

## **Uchucklesaht Tribe Government Official Community Plan and Zoning Act – Public Hearing**

As we move forward with the development of the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government (UTG) Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Act for Uchucklesaht Treaty Settlement Lands (TSL), UTG is required to hold a Public Hearing. However, before this hearing is held, UTG Legislature must vote on whether to proceed with the OCP and Zoning Act as is, or recommend further amendments prior to the hearing.

UTG Legislature will make a decision on the OCP and Zoning Act at their next Legislative meeting, and if they decide to move forward as is, a formal Public Hearing will be held at the UTG People's Assembly on August 8, 2015.

Elected officials have the authority to make decisions about how land will be used or developed. They can make long-range plans for the greater community, as well as decisions that affect neighbourhoods or individual properties. In order to balance these powers, elected officials are required to hear the views of residents and other interested parties.

Where a local government (in this case UTG) intends to consider an Official Community Plan (OCP) or zoning act (local municipalities refer to it as a zoning bylaw), a public hearing must be held for the purpose of allowing the public to make representations to the local government concerning the matters contained in the OCP or zoning act. At the public hearing, all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed OCP or bylaw must be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions. It is not necessary for all members of the UTG Legislature to attend the public hearing.

After the close of the public hearing (either the same day or at a later meeting), each of the UTG Legislative members must decide how they wish to vote on the OCP and zoning act. However, if all members were not present at the public hearing, they must not vote on the adoption of the bylaw until they have been presented with a report that contains the views expressed at the public hearing. There is no requirement that they must vote in accordance with the wishes of the majority of opinions expressed at the public hearing.

Once the OCP and zoning act is adopted, the next step is ensuring folks are afforded the opportunity to apply for a residential interest on UT TSL. This is a

process where Uchucklesaht enrollees can apply to the UTG for land use certainty in a location that is acceptable to the greater community.

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Uchucklesaht Tribe Government