



# Staff Report

## Request for Decision

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**TO:** SCRD Board – March 27, 2025

**AUTHOR:** Kristi Wiebe, Deputy Corporate Officer

**SUBJECT:** **Request for Exemption for Alberg Productions S2 Inc. from SCRD Noise Control Bylaw No. 597**

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### OVERVIEW

#### Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with options regarding ongoing requests from Alberg Productions S2 Inc. for exemption from *Sunshine Coast Regional District Noise Control Bylaw No. 597*. This report outlines options to facilitate the production company's work on the television series *Murder in a Small Town* and requests Board decision to accept, reject or provide alternate direction with respect to staff's recommendations as presented below.

#### Recommendation(s):

- (1) **THAT Alberg Productions S2 Inc. be granted exemption from SCRD Noise Control Bylaw No. 597 for purposes of filming and activities related to film production within Electoral Areas A, B, D, E, and F between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., and 11:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. from March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025;**
  - (2) **AND THAT Alberg Productions S2 Inc. be requested to continue advising all affected area residents by way of delivering *Notice of Filming* letters with as much information and notice as practicable;**
  - (3) **AND THAT Alberg Productions S2 Inc. be requested to continue informing SCRD staff of filming activities planned during normal quiet hours as outlined in Bylaw No. 597 for informational purposes;**
  - (4) **AND FURTHER THAT Alberg Productions S2 Inc. be requested to seek separate exemption for any activities expected to fall outside of the hours allowed for by way of this exemption.**
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### BACKGROUND

Alberg Productions S2 Inc. has been filming portions of the television show *Murder in a Small Town* within the Sunshine Coast Regional District since January 2024. Since that time, the SCRD Board has received and granted several exemptions from *Noise Control Bylaw No. 597* to allow for activities related to film production that may run into normal 'quiet hours' as defined in the Bylaw. Staff are not aware of any reported issues in the community because of noise created by these filming activities. To increase efficiency for both SCRD staff and the production company, a lengthier exemption from enforcement could be considered.

## DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

*Sunshine Coast Regional District Noise Control Bylaw No. 597, 2008* section (4) (c) prohibits noise that may interrupt or prevent sleep before 7:00 am and after 11:00 pm on any day that is not a holiday, or before 9:00 am and after 11:00 pm on any holiday. Since January 2024, several requests from Alberg Productions S2 Inc. requesting *SCRD Noise Control Bylaw No. 597* be waived have been granted by the SCRD Board. SCRD Bylaw Division report no negative interactions from residents with respect to filming of *Murder in a Small Town*, and staff believe all activities have been completed in alignment with requests granted by the Board.

Currently, the production company contacts staff as and when they know the precise location and hours needed for work during normal 'quiet hours', however they have indicated a plan to film throughout the SCRD until June 13, 2025. A broader exemption within which the production company could work, rather than presenting information to the Board for each identified period as they arise, could be considered, and in conjunction with *Notice of Filming* details distributed to affected residents for individual filming events.

Presently, one specific event (a specific time and location) is known, and Alberg Productions S2 Inc. are requesting enforcement be waived to facilitate filming work according to the following schedule and location:

- From 11:00 p.m. on Friday March 28, 2025 to 2:00 a.m. on Saturday March 29th, 2025 at 2989 Day Road; 3045 Day Road; intersection of Lockyear Road at Crystal Road.

If the Board supports filming activities being done during normal 'quiet hours', a resolution can be passed to indicate that enforcement of the *SCRD Noise Control Bylaw No. 597* will not be undertaken during the specified time and place; however a more comprehensive option may also be considered.

**OPTION 1** – *Waive enforcement of SCRD Noise Control Bylaw No. 597 for Alberg Productions S2 Inc. from 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. and from 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. from March 27, 2025 to June 13, 2025 for all Electoral Areas of the SCRD.*

Staff propose providing exemption from enforcement for the period the production company has specified they currently have scheduled for filming within the SCRD, March 27, 2025 to June 13, 2025, without specifying addresses. This option negates the need to field requests, prepare reports, and consider exemptions on a case-by-case basis. Staff submit that requests from Alberg Productions S2 Inc., to date, have been largely similar, with the activities involved and the type of noise anticipated to be generated stemming from vehicles parking and positioning, crews unloading, etc., and not involving high-action scene filming, or activities of that nature. Staff support this option for both its efficiency, and greater window of notice for the Board and the community alike. Alberg Productions S2 Inc. already circulate *Notice of Filming* letters to residents in the surrounding area once specific addresses are known and are prepared to commit to continue this practice, along with providing the same information to SCRD staff in a timely manner.

*Staff Recommendation*

Staff recommend this option. Should the Committee choose to go with Option 1, a resolution could be considered, as follows:

THAT Alberg Productions S2 Inc. be granted exemption from SCRD Noise Control Bylaw No. 597 for purposes of filming and activities related to film production within Electoral Areas A, B, D, E, and F between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., and 11:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. from March 27th, 2025 to June 13th, 2025;

AND THAT Alberg Productions S2 Inc. be requested to continue advising all affected area residents by way of delivering Notice of Filming letters with as much information and notice as practicable;

AND THAT Alberg Productions S2 Inc. be requested to continue informing SCRD staff of filming activities planned during normal quiet hours as outlined in Bylaw No. 597 for informational purposes;

AND FURTHER THAT Alberg Productions S2 Inc. be requested to seek separate exemption for any activities expected to fall outside of the hours allowed for by way of this exemption.

**OPTION 2** – *Provide Alberg Productions S2 Inc. with a single-event exemption for the single known location and times, as per previous practice.*

Staff can continue to field requests from Alberg Productions S2 Inc. for exemption from enforcement of By No. 597 on a case-by-case basis and present this information in the form of staff reports to the Board. The production company does not consistently have address details solidified two weeks in advance, therefore staff are not always able to present the requests to the Board due to agenda production deadlines.

Staff do not recommend this option. Should the Committee choose to go with Option 2, a resolution could be considered, as follows:

THAT Alberg Productions S2 Inc. be granted exemption from SCRD Noise Control Bylaw No. 597 for purposes of filming and activities related to film production within Electoral Area D From 11:00 p.m. on Friday March 28, 2025 to 2:00 a.m. on Saturday March 29th, 2025 at 2989 Day Road; 3045 Day Road; intersection of Lockyear Road at Crystal Road.

**OPTION 3** – *Reject the request for exemption from enforcement of SCRD Noise Control Bylaw No 597 for Alberg Productions S2 Inc.*

Staff do not recommend this option. Should the Board choose to go with Option 3, a resolution could be considered, as follows:

THAT Alberg Productions S2 Inc. request for exemption from SCRD Noise Control Bylaw No. 597 be denied.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Bylaw No. 597 is enforced by SCRD Bylaw Services division. Staff from Legislative Services and Bylaw Services have communicated and support the recommendation to grant an exemption.

**STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**TIMELINE**

As Alberg Productions S2 Inc. have indicated that their next stretch of work begins March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the timeline for decision on this matter is imminent.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Internal:** Legislative Services will continue to share information with both Bylaw Services and the SCRD Communications Office. If required, the SCRD can share messaging from the production company to support communication efforts.

**External:** Alberg Productions S2 Inc. will formally notifying nearby residents regarding their production via delivery of *Filming Notification* letters and location maps.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

Staff have provided options to consider regarding ongoing requests from the producers of *Murder in a Small Town* to waive enforcement for Noise Control Bylaw No. 597. The recommended option is to waive enforcement of Bylaw No 597 for Alberg Productions S2 Inc. for March 27 – June 13, 2025 within Areas A, B, D, E, and F of the SCRD.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Attachment A – Notice of Filming letter provided by Alberg Productions S2 Inc.

Reviewed by:			
Manager		Finance	
GM		Legislative	X – S. Reid
CAO	X – T. Perreault	Other	