

J. Richmond and Delta

I. Evolution of the Richmond and Delta electoral districts

Immediately prior to the 1966 Angus Commission, the two-member electoral district of Delta included all of Richmond, Delta, Surrey, White Rock and Langley (see Richmond, Map 1).



Richmond, Map 1



Richmond, Map 2

a. The Angus Commission (1966)

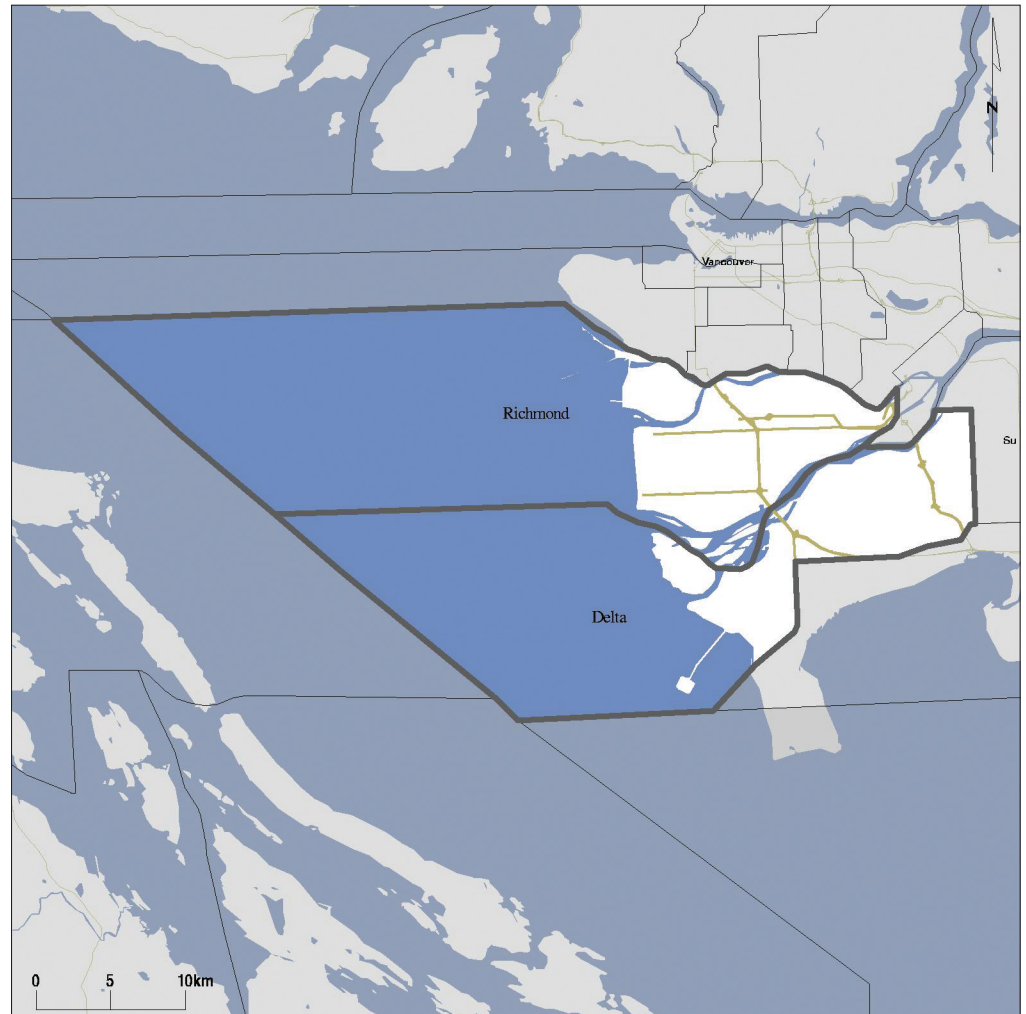
The Angus Commission recommended that the electoral district of Delta be divided into four: Richmond, Delta, Surrey and Langley (see Richmond, Map 2). The Richmond district would correspond exactly with the boundaries of the City of Richmond, while the Delta district would include all of the municipality of Delta, the south-western portion of Surrey (Crescent Beach) and White Rock.

The Legislative Assembly adopted the Angus Commission's recommendations.

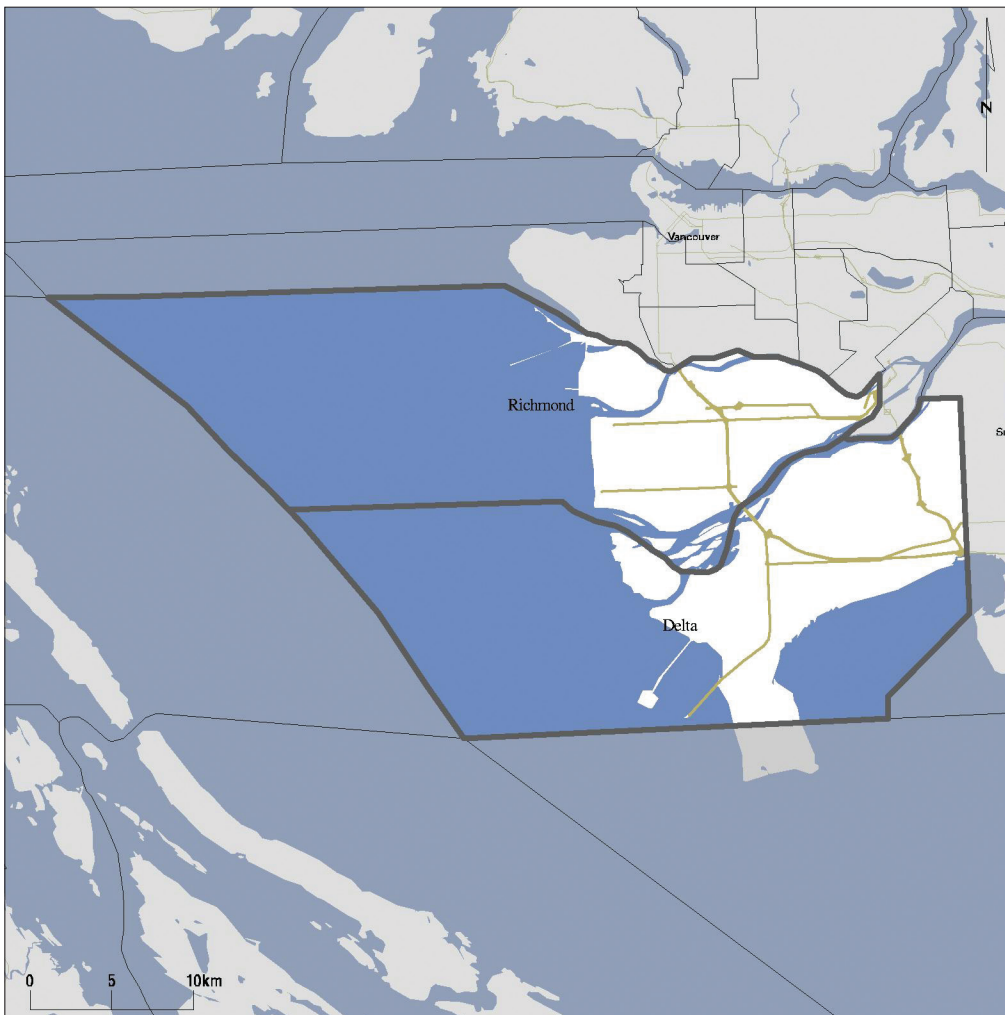
b. The Norris Commission (1975)

The Norris Commission recommended (see Richmond, Map 3) that the boundaries of the Richmond district remain unchanged, but that it become a two-member electoral district. It also recommended that the southern areas of the Delta district (Tsawwassen, Crescent Beach and White Rock) be transferred into a new district, to be called Peace Arch.

The Legislative Assembly did not adopt the Norris Commission's recommendations.



Richmond, Map 3



Richmond, Map 4

c. The Eckardt Commission (1978)

Judge Eckardt recommended (see Richmond, Map 4) that the Richmond and Delta electoral districts continue to elect one MLA each. Richmond should retain its existing boundaries, while the Delta district's boundaries should be altered to follow the municipal boundaries, with the exception of Annacis Island, which should remain part of the existing New Westminster electoral district.

The Legislative Assembly adopted Judge Eckardt's recommendations.

d. The Warren Commission (1982)

Mr. Warren recommended that a second MLA be added to seven electoral districts, including Richmond and Delta. The Legislative Assembly did not adopt Mr. Warren's recommendation.

e. The McAdam Commission (1984)

The McAdam Commission recommended that a second MLA be added to 11 electoral districts, including Richmond and Delta. The Legislative Assembly adopted the McAdam Commission's recommendation, giving the region four MLAs.

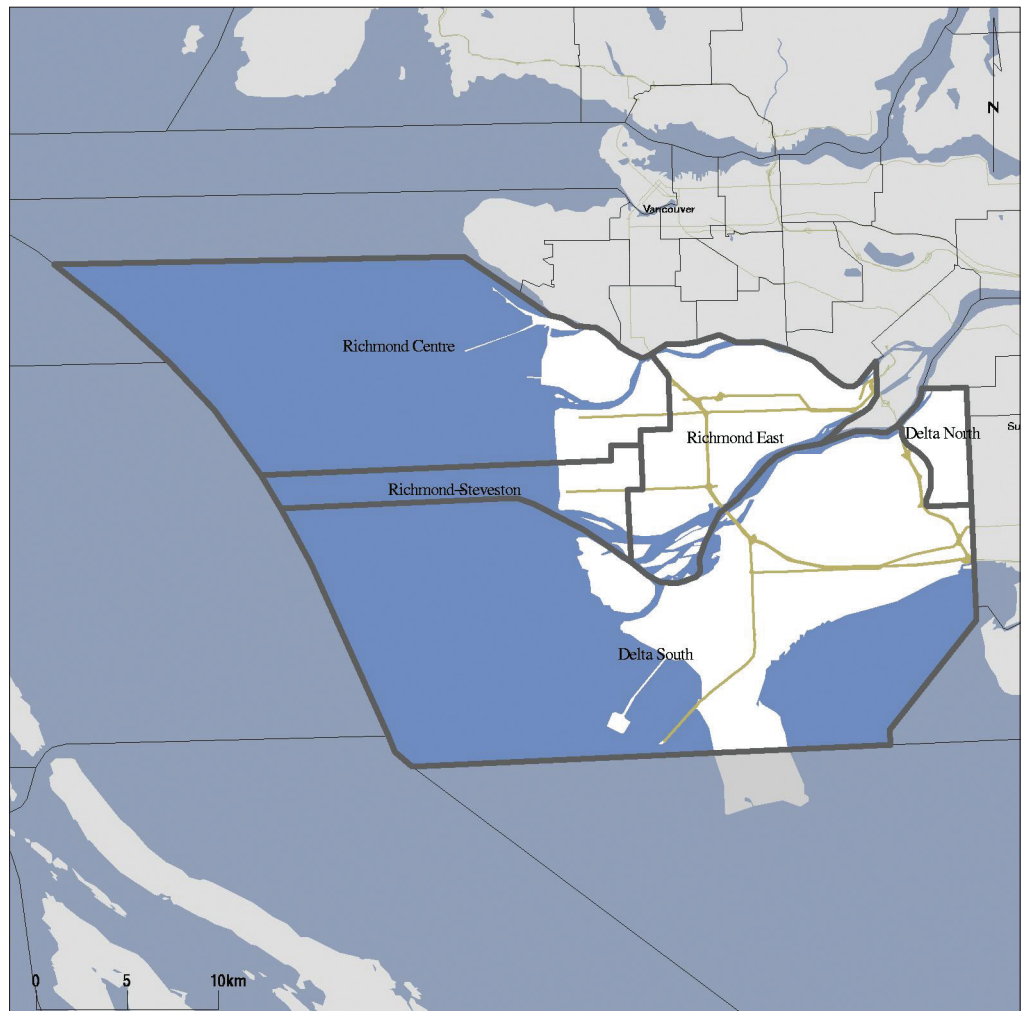
f. *The Fisher Commission (1988)*

In order to eliminate dual-member electoral districts, Judge Fisher divided the electoral district of Delta into North Delta (in the northeast quadrant of the municipality of Delta) and Ladner-Tsawwassen. In the case of Richmond, the elimination of the dual-member riding would have created two electoral districts, but Judge Fisher added a third, because of the area's growing population. He proposed names of Richmond East, Richmond North and Richmond South.

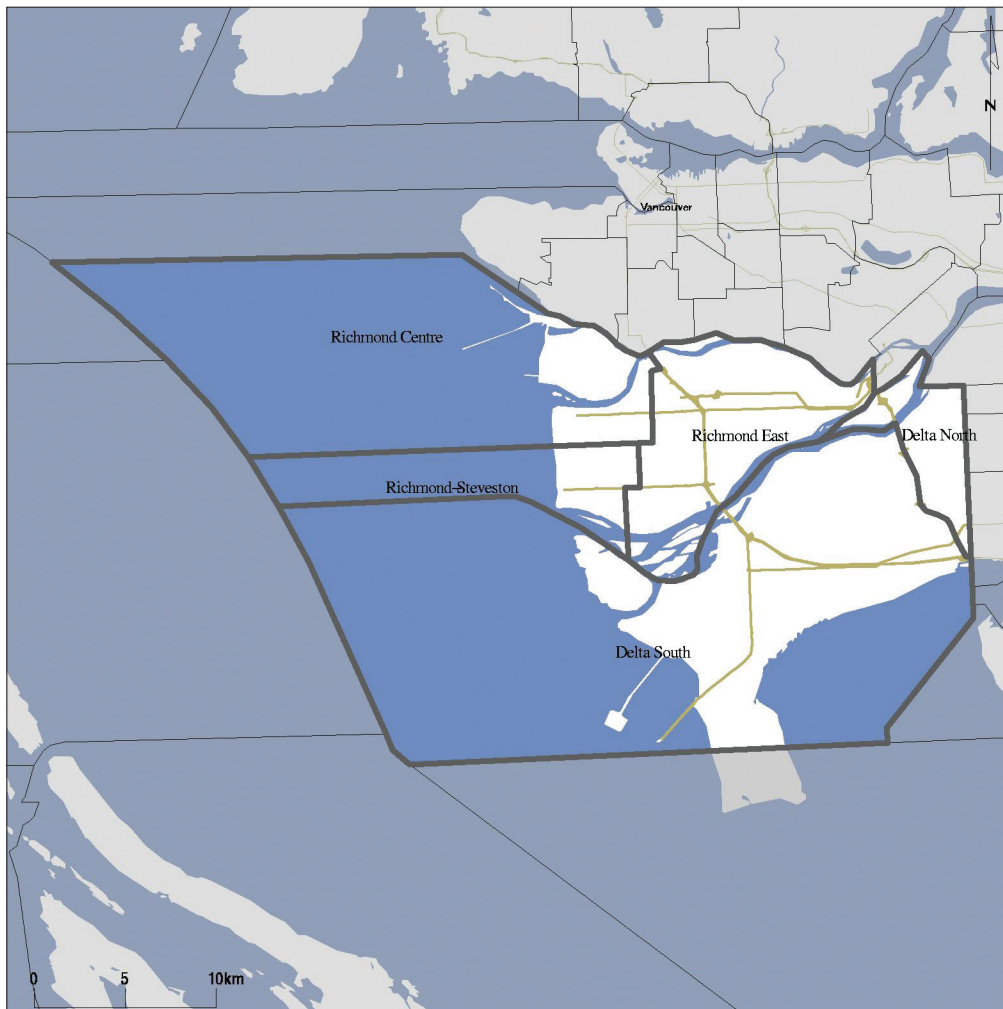
The Legislative Assembly adopted Judge Fisher's recommendations for five electoral districts, but changed the names to Delta North, Delta South, Richmond East, Richmond Centre, and Richmond-Steveston (see Richmond, Map 5).

g. *The Wood Commission (1999)*

The commission 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, Map 5



Richmond, Map 6

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 (see Richmond, Map 6). This left Richmond Centre with a modest negative deviation, “leaving room for the population growth predicted by the City.”

The boundaries of the two Delta districts also required some adjustment. The northeast boundary of Delta South was proposed to follow Highway 91 from the south arm of the Fraser River to the Delta-Surrey municipal boundary, rather than the Burlington Northern Railway right of way, which would also restore residents living south of 64th Avenue to Delta North. In addition, Annacis Island was proposed to be included in Delta North, as it is part of the municipality of Delta.

The Legislative Assembly adopted all of the Wood Commission’s recommendations.

2. Our analysis of the Richmond and Delta electoral districts

Our Richmond and Delta region includes the City of Richmond and the Corporation of Delta. This region now has five electoral districts (see map on page 224.) These electoral districts, with their deviations at the time of the 1996 census, and now, are as follows (see Table 21):

TABLE 21: CURRENT SMP ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN RICHMOND AND DELTA

Electoral District	1996 deviation*	2006 deviation**
Richmond Centre	-1.8%	+13.6%
Richmond-Steveston	+8.3%	+6.2%
Richmond East	+9.3%	+15.2%
Delta South	-5.2%	-12.1%
Delta North	+8.7%	-0.8%

* based on 1996 census data, and assuming 79 electoral districts

** based on 2006 census data, and assuming 79 electoral districts

As with Surrey, we approached our boundary setting exercise for this area with a preference to create electoral districts that did not cross municipal boundaries, if possible. Based on population considerations alone, Richmond (pop. 174,461) has too many residents for three electoral districts, but not enough for four. Redistributing Richmond's population among its three existing electoral districts results in an average deviation of plus 11.7 percent (based on 79 electoral districts).

On the other hand Delta, with 97,402 residents, would have two electoral districts with an average deviation of minus 6.5 percent, based on 79 districts. This includes the Corporation of Delta (pop. 96,723) and First Nations reserves (pop. 679) situated within the Delta South electoral districts.

Should we retain three Richmond districts and two Delta districts, out of respect for their municipal boundaries, or should we include some of Richmond's population in Delta in order to equalize the population among all five electoral districts?

The south arm of the Fraser River forms a clear demarcation between the Richmond East and Richmond-Steveston electoral districts and the South Delta electoral district. The only land connections are the George Massey Tunnel at Deas Island and the Alex Fraser Bridge at the extreme east end of Richmond East at Annacis Island. There are few apparent community interests across this stretch of the Fraser River.

On balance, we are satisfied that the municipal boundaries reflect community interests that should take priority over population parity in this instance, and that we should retain three

electoral districts wholly within the City of Richmond and two electoral districts wholly within the District Municipality of Delta.

Based on BC Stats' population projections to 2013 (Appendix O) and other information we have received, we are proposing several boundary adjustments within this region (see maps of three proposed Richmond electoral districts pages 226 to 228). We have not balanced the population exactly among the three proposed Richmond electoral districts because population projections indicate the population of the Richmond Centre electoral district will grow more rapidly than the population of the other two electoral districts.

Within Delta, we considered changing the boundary in order to balance the population, but decided that it would be preferable to retain the current Highway 91 boundary, which serves as a clear and easily identifiable division between North Delta's residential communities to the east and South Delta's agricultural and industrial lands to the west. We believe this to be another case where these community interests should take precedence over strict population parity (see maps of two proposed Delta electoral districts pages 229-230).

3. Conclusion

Accordingly, we propose that there be three electoral districts in the City of Richmond and two electoral districts in the District Municipality of Delta, as follows:

TABLE 22: PROPOSED SMP ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN RICHMOND AND DELTA

Electoral District	Sq. Km.	Population	Deviation*
Richmond Centre	374	55,942	+10.2%
Richmond-Steveston	32	60,721	+19.6%
Richmond East	92	57,798	+13.8%
Delta South	463	45,774	-9.9%
Delta North	32	51,628	+1.7%

* based on 81 electoral districts, with a provincial electoral quotient of 50,784

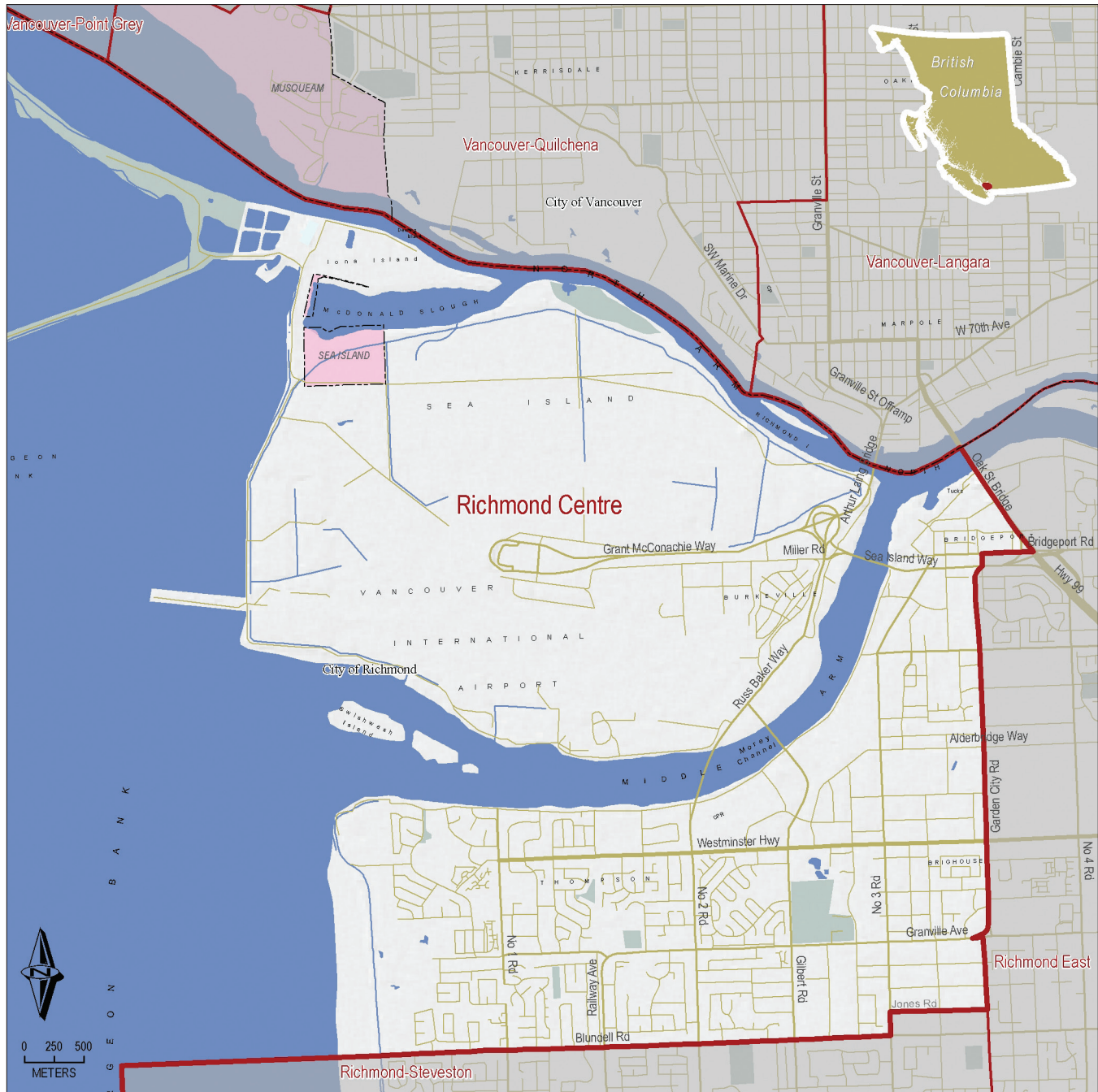
Region: Richmond and Delta – Current Electoral Districts



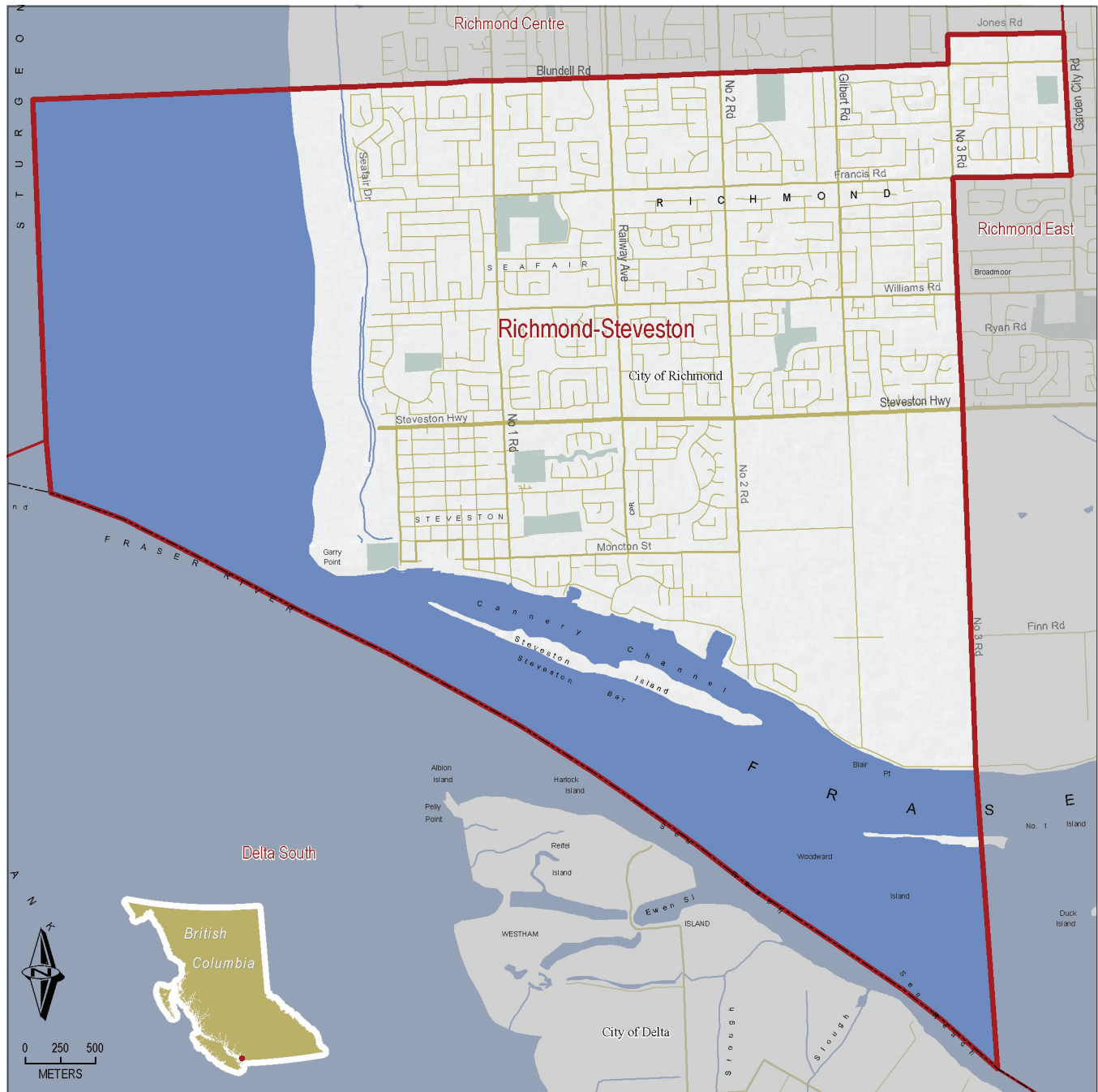
Region: Richmond and Delta – Proposed Electoral Districts



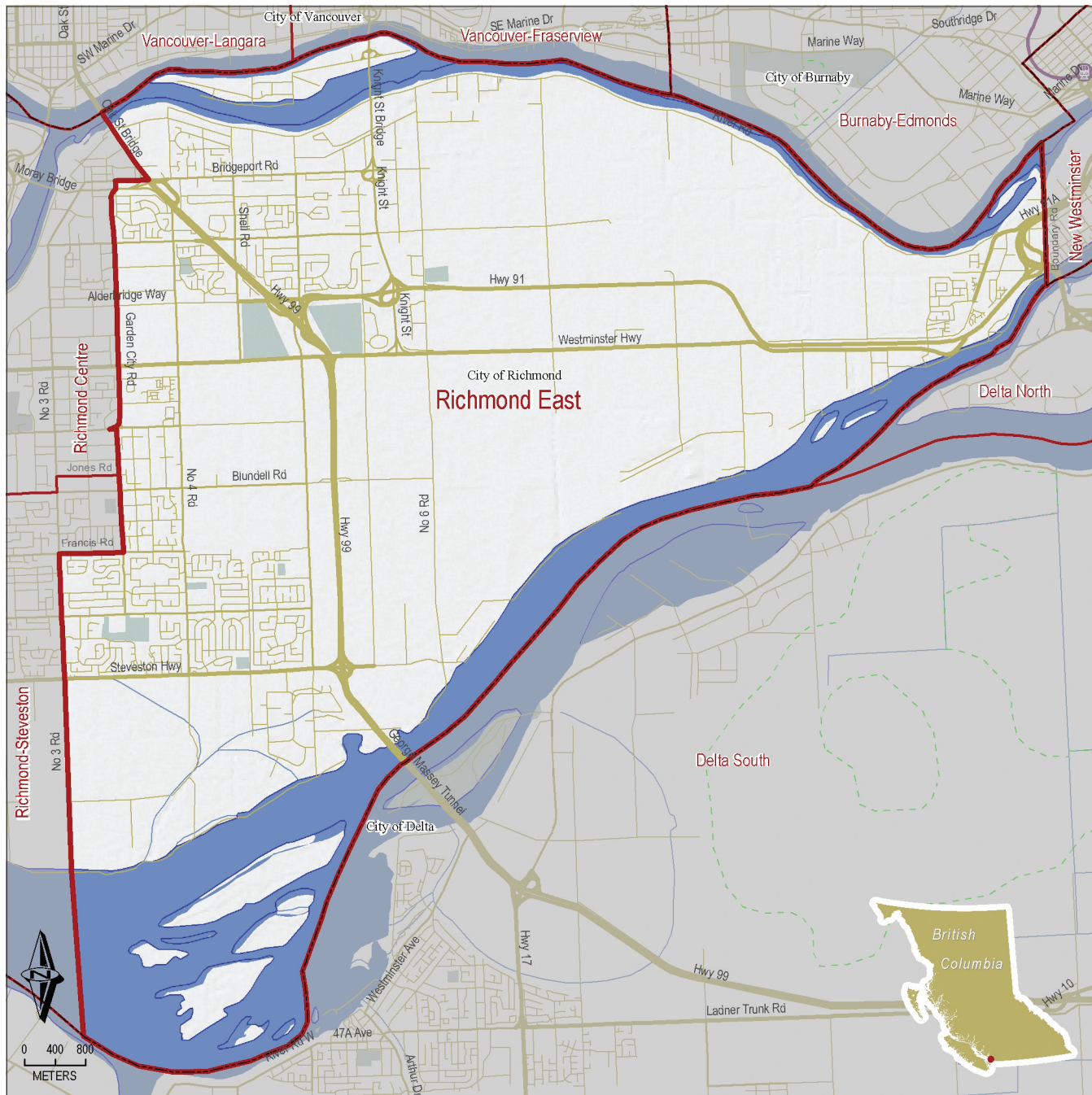
Region: Richmond and Delta – Proposed Richmond Centre Electoral District



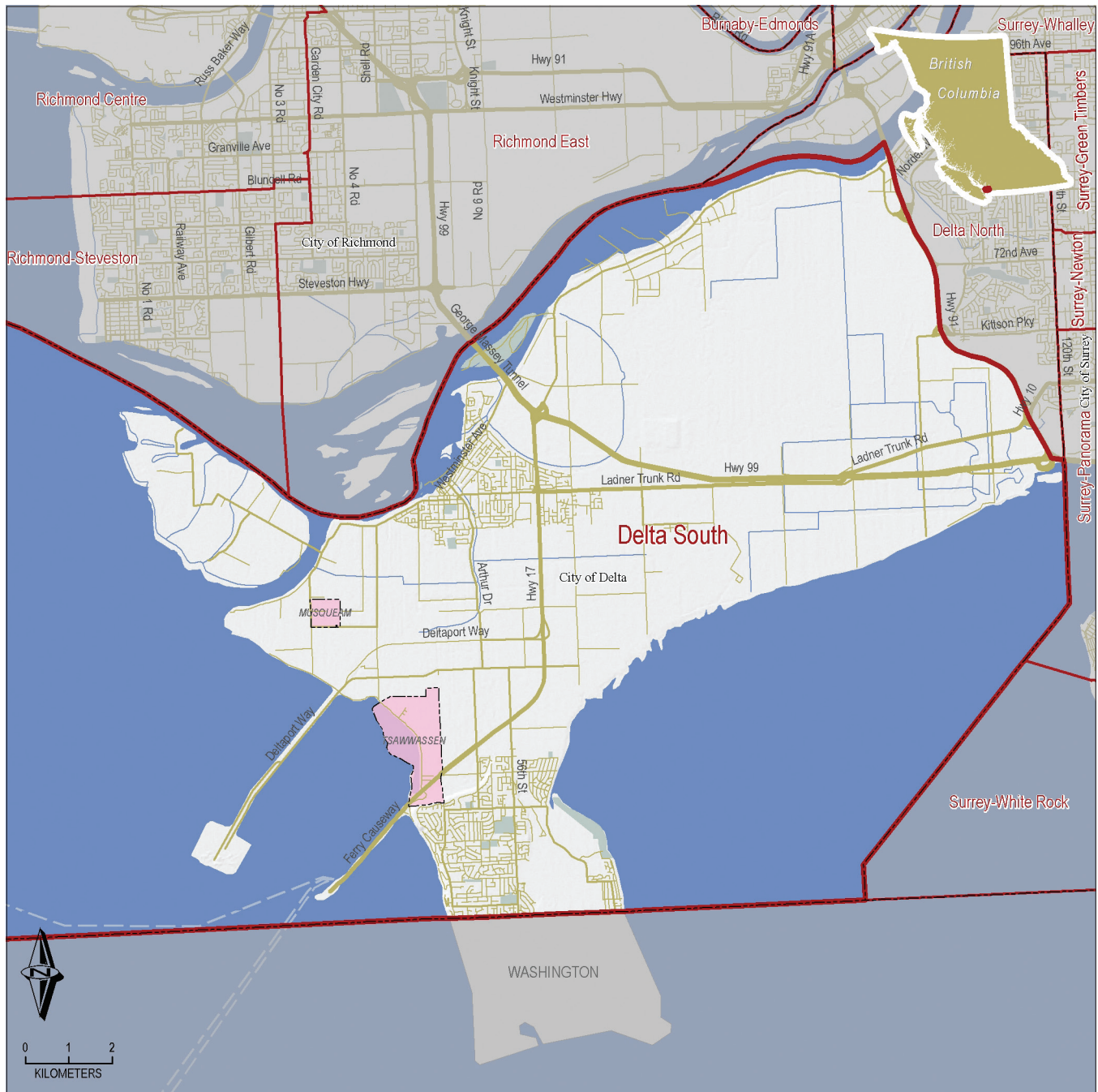
Region: Richmond and Delta – Proposed Richmond-Steveston Electoral District



Region: Richmond and Delta – Proposed Richmond East Electoral District



Region: Richmond and Delta – Proposed Delta South Electoral District



Region: Richmond and Delta – Proposed Delta North Electoral District

