

CITY OF VANCOUVER



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: April 28, 2005  
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Meeting Date: May 12, 2005

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets  
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services  
SUBJECT: City's Participation in the B.C. Community Water Improvement Program

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council endorse the City's application to the "B.C. Community Water Improvement Program" for the Clark Drive Combined Sewer Overflow Reduction and False Creek Water Quality Improvement projects.
- B. THAT these projects be subject to the 2006-2008 Capital Planning process and, upon confirmation of Provincial funding, staff report back to Council seeking a formal allocation of funds to cover the City's share of the projects.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager supports the above recommendations.

COUNCIL POLICY

In 1985, Council endorsed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FMC) initiatives to take steps to halt the significant decline in the condition of infrastructure in urban areas, placing emphasis on maintenance and reconstruction as opposed to new construction, in partnership with senior governments.

Council has supported the renewal of an-ongoing cost-sharing with senior governments for water, sewer and road projects.

Council has a policy of replacing combined sewers in the City with separated sewers in order to continually reduce and eliminate combined sewer overflows to Vancouver's surrounding waterbodies.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to request Council to endorse two sewer infrastructure projects being submitted under the "B.C. Community Water Improvement Program".

## **BACKGROUND**

Between 1989 and 1992, the City received funding averaging about \$5 million per year from the Province for water, sewer and road infrastructure projects. In 1994, the Federal Government introduced the first Federal/Provincial/Municipal Infrastructure program and the City subsequently received \$8 million from the Federal and Provincial governments. In 2000, the City was awarded \$3.5 million for sewer projects under the Provincial Local Government Grant program. In 2002, the City was awarded sewer infrastructure projects totalling \$18.26 million under the Canada/BC Infrastructure Program. These latter projects are currently under construction and will be completed in early 2006.

On February 5, 2005, the Provincial Government announced the "B.C. Community Water Improvement Program" to benefit drinking water and waste water systems. Municipalities and regional districts were invited to submit up to two projects for consideration.

Under this new program, the provincial government would provide two-thirds of the cost of approved projects and local governments would provide one third of the funding.

The deadline for project applications was February 28, 2005, which did not allow us time to report to Council prior to our submission. As a result, the Engineering department applied for the following two projects:

1. Clark Drive Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Reduction Project (\$7,130,000), and
2. False Creek Water Quality Improvement Project (\$21,278,000).

On February 28, 2005, a memo was sent to Council outlining our submission. The Province has now requested Council's resolution authorizing these projects.

## **DISCUSSION**

Following notification of the new Provincial grant program, the Engineering Department had just over two weeks to submit two water or wastewater projects for consideration. Staff chose two sewer infrastructure projects in a similar nature to the ones submitted under the 2002 "Canada/BC Infrastructure Program". These projects support our continued sewer programs to reduce and eliminate CSOs in accordance with the Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) approved by Council, the GVRD and the Provincial Government. The LWMP commits us to continually reduce CSOs and to eliminate all of them by 2050.

The first project submitted (Clark Drive CSO Reduction Project) is similar to the next priority project that Vancouver submitted under the 2002 "Canada/BC Infrastructure Program". This

project along with planned GVRD improvements will result in about a 40% reduction in CSOs to Vancouver Harbour at Clark Drive. This project involves replacing combined sewers in the area tributary to the Clark Drive outfall, diverting sanitary flows away from the outfall to a pump station, upgrading the station to handle increased flows, and redirecting four sanitary forcemains to the Eighth Avenue Interceptor which conveys effluent directly to the Iona Sewage Treatment Plant.

The second project submitted (False Creek Water Quality Improvement Project) focuses on reducing CSO discharges to False Creek. This project involves replacing combined sewers in the areas tributary to the Crowe Street, Laurel Street and Granville Street CSOs that discharge into False Creek, upgrading the Cambie Street Pumping Station to account for increased flows and to construct a stormwater treatment pond. The result of this project will allow us to eliminate the Crowe Street and Laurel Street CSOs, reduce sanitary overflows at the Granville Island CSO outfall, and provide a stormwater treatment pond for stormwater runoff from the Crowe Street catchment area.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The combined total estimated cost of these projects is \$28,408,000 million. If successful, the B.C. Community Water Improvement Program will fund two-thirds of the cost of the project (approximately \$18.9 million). The City's share of funding for the project would then be \$9.5 million.

It is anticipated that \$24,731,000 of the total estimated cost of the projects would occur within the 2006-2008 Capital Plan timeframe. These projects have been included in the 2006-2008 Capital Plan submission and are subject to the review and recommendations of the Capital Plan Staff Review Group and approval by Council.

The endorsement by Council of these projects does not commit the City to funding the local share of capital costs or the ongoing operating costs since it is subject to the 2006-2008 Capital Planning process. Further, if the City is successful in obtaining the grants, staff will report back to Council seeking a formal allocation of funds to cover the City's share of the project costs.

### **CONCLUSION**

Provincial cost sharing of these two projects will allow us to accelerate our commitments under the Liquid Waste Management Plan. These projects will have significant environmental benefits by eliminating all sanitary overflows through two CSO outfalls in False Creek as well as reducing sanitary overflows at two other CSO outfalls in False Creek and Vancouver Harbour.

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