



To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** February 25, 2002
From: Suzanne Bycraft **File:** 6125-01
 Manager, Emergency & Environmental Programs
Re: Environmental Management Strategy - Proposed Framework

Staff Recommendation

That the Environmental Management Strategy framework, as outlined in the report from the Environmental Coordinator dated February 25, 2002, be endorsed as the basis for development of an Environmental Management Strategy for Richmond.

Suzanne Bycraft
Manager, Emergency & Environmental Programs

Att.2

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Engineering	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Roads & Dykes	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Maintenance	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Policy Planning	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Transportation	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

Staff Report

Origin

An environmental services review conducted during 1999 found that as a result of the amalgamation of the City's former Environmental Health Department with the regional health board, the City's approach to environmental issues had become uncoordinated, responsibilities were not clearly defined, and an overall sense of priority and direction with respect to environmental issues was lacking. To address this issue, Council supported the development of a City Environmental Management Strategy (EMS).

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with staff's proposal for a framework for the EMS (i.e., content areas and structure). The proposed framework is provided in Attachment 1.

Background

The proposed framework was developed by an interdepartmental staff committee in collaboration with the City's Environmental Coordination Committee and Council's Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE). To assist in the development of the framework, a review was conducted by staff on environmental management plans and strategies used in other jurisdictions, including other Lower Mainland municipalities, the Vancouver Airport, City of Toronto, City of Seattle and City of Scottsdale.

The proposed framework provides a strong foundation for developing the EMS by providing a degree of focus and clarity on what the anticipated strategy is expected to encompass. ACE is in support of the proposed framework.

Framework Features

1. Key Components: Vision, Integrated Management Program and Action Plan

The framework incorporates:

- Overall guiding concepts, goals, objectives and policies
- A management system to better co-ordinate environmental initiatives and be more responsive to change (e.g., new information, changes in community values or priorities, new legislation, evolving concepts, performance results, etc.); and
- An action plan that strategically targets effort towards environmental concerns of priority and those issues most likely to yield the greatest benefit to the Richmond community.

2. Incorporation of Environmental Management Program Areas

A primary objective of the EMS is to coordinate present and future environmental initiatives across City departments. The framework proposes to coordinate initiatives according to five strategic areas: Managing Effectively, Developing Green, Protecting Natural Resources, Greening Corporate Practices and Engaging the Community. This approach recognizes that environmental management is ultimately about managing human activity. It also provides a mechanism for addressing environmental issues in a comprehensive manner by addressing issues of management, community development, resource protection, corporate practice and community stewardship.

The program areas are not new and separate initiatives; they are a method of “packaging” existing City initiatives to create a systematic environmental management program. Examples of how existing initiatives would be incorporated into the proposed management areas is provided in Attachment 2.

3. Recognition of Economic and Social Values

The EMS is being developed in recognition of the multiple objectives of community well-being – social, economic and environmental. The framework incorporates a section identifying the principles of environmental management. The principle of social and economic integration will be included as a central environmental management principle. Other potential environmental management principles include the precautionary principle, the principle of adaptive management, the principle ecosystem-based management, the principle of transparent and accountable management, and the principle of community engagement. These other principles will be identified early in the development process.

Next Steps

The next step is to establish a detailed work program (including identifying opportunities for ACE and community input) . The intent is to develop a work program which is inclusive of a broad spectrum of perspectives, including different City departments, ACE, Richmond businesses, the agricultural community, environmental groups, academia and external agencies. Consideration is being given to the development of a multidisciplinary steering committee.

Staff will report back to Council at key stages of the development process for guidance and input on overall direction.

Financial Impact

The work done to date on the EMS has been undertaken by staff and, therefore, there has been no direct cost. Staff anticipate that consultant assistance will be required to assist with key aspects of the strategy, such as the development of a detailed work program, undertaking required research and background work, co-ordinating and facilitating workshops and meetings, and report preparation. Costs for this are not yet known, however, funding will be provided from existing levels within the Environmental Programs budget. In addition, the City received a grant of \$30,000 from the previous Provincial Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers, which will be applied to the EMS development costs.

Funding for action recommended by the Strategy will be determined as we work through the development process. As part of this, staff will ensure that the Strategy will contain an Action Plan with alternative levels of service and associated costs, as well as a no-increase cost option.



Margot Daykin, M.R.M
Environmental Coordinator
MD:

Attachment 1

Environmental Management Strategy (EMS): Proposed Framework

Executive Summary

1.0 Background

- 1.1 EMS Origin
- 1.2 EMS Purpose and Scope
- 1.3 Approach and Planning Process to Prepare the EMS
- 1.4 Report Structure

2.0 Richmond's Setting

- 2.1 Context (ecological, social, management)
- 2.2 The Need for Action
- 2.3 Challenges and Opportunities
- 2.4 Community Values

3.0 Environmental Vision and Goals

- 3.1 Corporate Policy
- 3.2 Environmental Values
- 3.3 2010 Environmental Vision
- 3.4 Statement of Richmond's Environmental Culture
- 3.5 Environmental Goals
- 3.6 Environmental Management Principles

4.0 Assessment of Current Situation

- 4.1 Environmental Issues and Trends (include info from City's State of Environment Report)
- 4.2 Environmental Legislation and Regional Policy
- 4.3 Community Priorities
- 4.4 Present City Action
 - Managing Effectively
 - Greening Development
 - Protecting Natural Resources
 - Greening Corporate Practices
 - Engaging Community
- 4.5 Assessment of Present City Action (strengths, issues and concerns, opportunities and constraints)

5.0 Action Plan

- 5.1 Recommended Action
 - Action Areas & Priority Ranking
 - Objectives, Targets and Benchmarks
 - Resource Requirements, Benefits and Costs (cost to take action and costs of not doing)
 - Recommended Level of Service
- 5.2 Multi-Year Environmental Strategy Work Program (5yr Action Plan)
 - Implementation Details, Roles and Responsibilities, Expected Results and Monitoring Process
- 5.3 Annual EMS Review

6.0 Summary

References

Appendices: List of Acryonms
 Reference List of Available Tools and Initiatives

Attachment 2

Environmental Management Strategy (EMS): Proposed Organization by Management Area

