



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO: Richmond City Council **DATE:** May 3, 2000
FROM: Jeff Day, P. Eng. **FILE:** 0157-20-REAC1-03
 Director, Engineering
RE: Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District – Request for Endorsement of the Liquid Waste Management Plan Phase 2 – Policies and Commitments Document, March 2000

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. That the City of Richmond adopt the waste management plan titled “Greater Vancouver Regional District Liquid Waste Management Plan Stage 2 Policies and Commitments” dated March, 2000 (LWMP Stage 2) and authorize the GVRD to submit the LMWP Stage 2 to the British Columbia Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks (the Minister) for approval pursuant to Section 18(1) of the British Columbia Waste Management Act (the Act).
2. If the Minister approves the LWMP Stage 2 as submitted, then the GVRD continue to work with City staff to determine detailed cost implications of the City’s commitments to the LWMP prior to Stage 3, and well in advance to the 2001 or pertinent budgeting year.
3. If the Minister approves the LWMP Stage 2 as submitted, Council request that the GVRD proceed to prepare the LWMP Stage 3 in consultation with its member municipalities and request Council’s endorsement prior to submission to the Minister for approval.

Jeff Day, P. Eng.
Director, Engineering

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Sewers and Drainage.....	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Budgets	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

Last Fall, following completion of the technical work associated with the development of a Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) for the region and the completion of the public consultation process, the GVRD requested Council's endorsement for Stage 2 "Policies and Commitments" of the LWMP dated August 30, 1999.

At the October 12, 1999 Council meeting, Council endorsed in principal the above mentioned document. However, subsequent to Council's endorsement and prior to the GVRD Board approval, objectionable changes were made to this document by GVRD staff in an attempt to satisfy the late concerns expressed by the Department of Fisheries (DFO) and Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (MOELP).

The changes appeared to commit the GVRD to secondary treatment at both the Iona and Lions Gate treatment plants without justifiable scientific or environmental rationale. The changes were made without consultation with the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee (REAC) or the municipalities.

Upon recognition of their error, with respect to due process, GVRD staff requested and received the Sewerage and Drainage Committee's approval to request a six month extension from the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks. On December 22, 1999, the Minister granted the GVRD an extension to June 30, 2000, to enable GVRD staff and REAC to resolve the outstanding issues with the DFO and MOELP.

ANALYSIS

Since January, 2000, staff through REAC's LWMP Sub-Committee have been working extensively with the Agency Liaison Committee (ALC), which has representation from DFO and MOELP, to resolve the outstanding issues.

This resulted in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will include the signatories by all the environmental agencies including the multi-agency BIEAP/FREMP (Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program/Fraser River Estuary Management Program).

The MOU will commit each party to the following:

BIEAP/FREMP will:

- Support the LWMP and work towards its long term objectives;
- Participate in the LWMP updates scheduled to take place every five years;
- Review and comment upon the biennial LWMP progress reports and interim reports;
- Participate in the Environmental Monitoring Committee;
- Identify any issues related to the LWMP that arise through these activities, or through other initiatives to the BIEAP and FREMP Management Committee.

GVRD will:

- Undertake to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the parties that the proposed monitoring, modelling and forecasting program, upon which the environmental management approach relies, is workable.

Federal agencies will:

- Undertake early and comprehensive consultation concerning legislative, regulatory, or policy changes that may affect the LWMP.

Further refinements to the LWMP Stage 2 Policies and Commitments document, March 2000 version include reference to federal legislation, reference the BIEAP/FREMP, a commitment to toxicity assessment of treatment plant effluent and clarification of the policy regarding elimination of combined sewer overflows from district facilities.

The MOU and refinements to the LWMP Stage 2 Policies and Commitments document, March 2000 have been endorsed by REAC.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Current City operational expenditures in sewers and drainage are adequate to comply with the immediate commitments to the LWMP Stage 2 Policies and Commitments.

The implications of the Stage 2 LWMP on municipal and GVRD budgets are not expected to be significant until the year 2001 budget, at the earliest.

CONCLUSION

Over the past six months, staff, through REAC, have been actively involved in the review of the negotiations between the GVRD and the ALC to resolve the outstanding issues. Staff and REAC are now satisfied with the MOU and refinements to the LWMP Stage 2 Policies and Commitments document, March 2000.

In the absence of an approved LWMP, GVRD municipalities will have to comply with the Provincial Sewage Regulations, which is a "one size fits all" prescriptive approach to liquid waste management.

Approval of the LWMP Stage 2 by municipal councils, the GVRD Board, and the MOELP will authorize the GVRD and member municipalities to proceed with Stage 3 of the plan and formalize the financial commitments.

Paul H. Lee, P.Eng.
Manager, Engineering Planning

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