



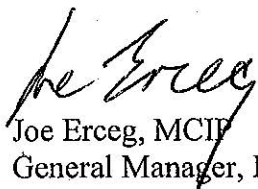
City of Richmond

Report to Committee

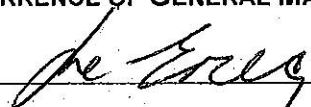
To: Planning Committee **Date:** January 29, 2009
From: Joe Erceg
General Manager, Planning & Development **File:** 01-0100-20-AADV1-
01/2009-Vol 01
Re: **AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2008 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2009
WORK PROGRAM**

Staff Recommendation

That the 2009 Agricultural Advisory Committee work program be approved.


Joe Erceg, MCIP
General Manager, Planning and Development

Att.

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

The Richmond Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) was established in 2003 upon completion of the Agricultural Viability Strategy (AVS). A primary role of the AAC is to provide advice from an agricultural perspective to Council, City staff and other stakeholders on a range of issues and projects that impact agricultural activities in Richmond. The AAC also helps to assist in the implementation of recommendations contained in the Agricultural Viability Strategy, which was approved by Council on May 26, 2003.

This report summarizes the activities of the AAC in 2008 and proposes a 2009 work plan for Council consideration and approval.

Analysis

2008 Annual Report

The highlights of the AAC's 2008 activities are summarized in its Annual Report (**Attachment 1**).

2009 Work Program

The proposed AAC Work Program for 2009 is outlined in **Attachment 2**.

Financial Impact

The AAC receives an annual operating budget of \$2,500 which is budgeted for in the 2009 base budget.

Conclusion

The 2008 Annual Report for the AAC is submitted for information purposes and a Work Program for 2009 is recommended for approval.



Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning



Kevin Eng
Planner 1

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2008 ANNUAL REPORT
 AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Agricultural Advisory Committee 2008 Accomplishments

Projects	Results Expected	Objectives and Deliverables	Accomplishments and Comments
Major development proposals	Agricultural perspective and advice to Council	Review proposals and provide comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and commented on 4 development proposals (see list below). • Reviewed and commented on the strategy developed by Parks staff to address the waterfowl issue.
External Agency Requests for Feedback	Provide agricultural comments and perspectives to the agency (through council) when requested.	Review materials and provide comments where necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Vancouver Proposed Growth Management Strategy Options reviewed by the AAC with comments forwarded to Richmond City Council for consideration. • Received presentations and information on the Richmond Farm School Proposal (Kwantlen University College). • Informed of consultation sessions held by the BC Farm Assessment Review Panel. Members were invited to voice concerns over property assessments. Some members attended and made comments as individuals. The review of Farm Assessment was a province-wide initiative. • Received materials from Ministry of Agriculture and Lands for information and feedback where appropriate. Documents included: Reports on valuing agriculture as a public amenity; updated regulations through the Ministry's Strengthening Farming documents.

Projects	Results Expected	Objectives and Deliverables	Accomplishments and Comments
Drainage/irrigation program for agricultural areas	Agricultural perspective	Monitor progress and review proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided comments to Engineering Planning staff on drainage and irrigation works as identified in the East Richmond Agricultural Water Supply Study (ERAWSS). • Monitored progress and received updates on the status of works identified for 2008. This included ditch re-profiling, installation of flap gate water control structures and culvert installation for drainage infrastructure identified in the ERAWSS. • Advised of funding grants being pursued by Engineering Planning. • Stressed the importance of receiving periodic updates on City works (existing and proposed) so that Agricultural feedback is given where appropriate. • Continued to advise Engineering Planning staff of the need for substantial amounts of dedicated funding to implement the works identified in the ERAWSS.
Public Awareness and Local Food Initiatives	Improved awareness and understanding of agriculture and its role in the community among Council, staff and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on local food awareness initiatives. • Address ongoing theft, vandalism and trespassing issues in farm areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide comments to the Richmond Local Food Guide developed by the Richmond Food Security Task Force. • Where requested provide comments and receive information on the development of Local Food Markets
General Agricultural Related Issues	Identify specific projects and initiatives that impact agriculture	Monitor progress and receive updates on items as they become available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegation by City Parks staff to request feedback on the City's Waterfowl Strategy. • Continued application of the AAC's "Action Item Table" to ensure monitoring of issues. • Items included in the table were the Shell Road Trail, local food guide, East Richmond drainage and irrigation works and the proposed Nelson Road Highway Interchange.

List of Development Proposals Reviewed in 2008

Application No.	Address of property	Proposed use
AG 08-407180	5700 Dhillon Way (Lots 61-70)	Non-farm use – New cranberry processing facility
AG 08-414215	12600 Blundell Road	Non-farm use – Proposed Montessori facility on old Sidaway school site
AG 08-416748	5555 No. 4 Road (Garden City Lands)	ALR Exclusion No quorum – Some members commented
RZ 08-414318	12351 No. 2 Road	ALR buffer between residential and agricultural land

**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2009 WORK PROGRAM**

AAC Role in the Work Program

- Provide comments and feedback, from an agricultural perspective, to Richmond City Council and staff on works and services, development and major projects being undertaken in the ALR.
- Receive for information, reports and materials forwarded from external agencies (Ministry, Metro Vancouver, ALC, NGO etc.). Provide comments and feedback (through Council) when requested.
- Participate in public meetings or consultation in relation to work program projects.
- Continue to improve local agricultural awareness and education initiatives.
- Monitor progress on work projects directly related to agriculture.
- Ensure that all City Divisions liaise with the AAC as early as possible on works deemed to have an impact on farming so that the Committee can be consulted. These proactive initiatives will help to inform agricultural stakeholders of forthcoming works and enable comments and feedback to be given where appropriate.

AAC Proposed 2009 Work Program

The following items are proposed to comprise the AAC work program for 2009

Projects	Results Expected	Objectives and Deliverables
Major development projects	Agricultural perspective and advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review development proposals forwarded to the AAC from Council or staff from an agricultural perspective. • Review proposals and provide comments. • Ensure that the AAC is aware of all works and services (existing and proposed) in the ALR so that agricultural impacts can be examined and comments given where appropriate. • Provide feedback into the proposed Nelson Road Interchange with the objective of minimizing the impact on agriculture. • Provide feedback to the City's Community Bylaws Division and the ALC's enforcement group on the strategy to address the placement of fill on agriculture land.

Projects	Results Expected	Objectives and Deliverables
Flood Protection and Management	Agricultural perspective and input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and comment on reports and proposals related to the Richmond 2006-2031 Flood Protection Management Strategy.
Drainage and Irrigation	Agricultural perspective and input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive scheduled updates on drainage and irrigation works in East Richmond. • Provide comments and feedback with the objective to complete works identified in the East Richmond Agricultural Water Supply Study in a timely and coordinated manner.
Public Awareness and Local Food Initiatives	Improved awareness and understanding of agriculture and its role in the community among Council, staff and the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with groups interested in promoting local agricultural products. • Partner with organizations interested in promoting agriculture and local food awareness (Richmond Food Security Task Force, Richmond Farm School, Tourism Richmond). • Consider hosting an event to highlight the importance of agriculture and specific challenges faced by this sector.
Agricultural Data System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update agriculture related statistics based on current data figures. • Identify latest trends related to agriculture and how they impact the RAVS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor changes in the agricultural sector to determine issues of concern and changes in overall viability.