



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: November 22, 2010

From: John Irving, P.Eng. MPA  
Director, Engineering

File: 10-6340-01/2010-Vol  
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Re: East Richmond Agricultural Lands - Drainage and Irrigation Upgrades Program

**Staff Recommendation**

That a letter be sent to the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-foods, and the Provincial Minister of Agriculture requesting dedicated funding to allow the City to continue with the priority East Richmond drainage and irrigation works.

John Irving, P.Eng. MPA  
Director, Engineering  
(604-276-4140)

Att.

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY					
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>		<b>CONCURRENCE</b>		<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>	
Sewerage & Drainage		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>		YES	NO	<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DEPUTY	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

## Staff Report

### Origin

As part of the City's commitment to the preservation of agricultural lands and ensuring the viability of farm operations, the City has continually invested in the maintenance and upgrading of drainage and irrigation infrastructure in East Richmond. With Council support and periodic Federal/Provincial grants, capital funding has been allocated annually since 2006 as guided by the East Richmond Agricultural Water Supply Study.

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the implementation of the program.

### Analysis

With over 2235 hectares of land available for production, and approximately 80% in use, agriculture remains an important industry in Richmond and a part of the City's identity. The City supports the industry in consultation with the Agricultural Advisory Committee where concerns and issues, which include the drainage and irrigation needs of the farming community, are discussed and brought to the City staff's attention.

Drainage of farmland is critical to the growing season, as land that cannot drain, cannot be effectively ploughed. Therefore a proper drainage system within the City's agricultural lands is essential. The local farming community also depends on the drainage system as an inexpensive source of irrigation water.

In 2006, the East Richmond Agricultural Water Supply Study was completed to identify drainage and irrigation priority upgrades for the agricultural area in east Richmond. The improvement strategy that stemmed from this study involves various conveyance upgrades and operational improvements. With Council's support, the highest priority upgrades from the improvement strategy have been scheduled into the annual Capital Program since 2007, and implemented as noted in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Completed Drainage/Irrigation Initiatives**

Year	Scope of Work	Budget
2007	Granville Alignment Ditch Upgrade (No. 6 Road to Kartner Road)	\$900,000
2008	Westminster Hwy ( No. 8 Road to Nelson Road)	\$592,000
2009	Granville Alignment Ditch Upgrade (Nelson Road to Kartner Road) No. 8 Rd Ditch Upgrade (Westminster Hwy to Granville Alignment)	\$1,700,000
2010	Francis Rd Alignment Ditch Upgrade (Sidaway Rd to No. 6 Rd)	\$300,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,492,000</b>

In addition to the high priority upgrades indicated in the Table 1, the improvement strategy recommended several other upgrades that would be beneficial to the agricultural lands in East Richmond. These upgrades, which are proposed in the 2011 – 2015 Capital are highlighted in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Future Drainage/Irrigation Works**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Proposed Scope of Work</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
2011	Granville Alignment Ditch Upgrade (Sidaway Rd to No. 6 Rd.) and Interim local pump station at No. 8 Road and Granville	\$550,000
2012	Cambie Rd Ditch Upgrade (No. 6 Rd to Nelson Rd)	\$300,000
2013	No. 6 Rd Ditch Upgrade (Highway 91 to No. 6 Rd Pump Station North)	\$430,000
2014	No. 6 Road Ditch and Storm Sewer Upgrade (Westminster Hwy to Steveston Hwy)	\$2,120,000
2015	Blundell Road and Williams Road Ditch Upgrades	\$485,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,885,000</b>

Drainage and irrigation conditions have significantly improved in East Richmond as a result of the upgrades completed to date. In particular, the installed infrastructure has significantly enhanced the City's ability to deliver services based on diverse irrigation/drainage needs dependant of the type of farming activity. Future capital projects will continue to improve the City's ability to meet drainage and irrigation demands.

In previous years (2007 – 2008) grant funding to complete the East Richmond irrigation and drainage works was provided by the Federal and Provincial governments through the National Water Supply Expansion Program (NWSEP). Since 2009, grant funding through the NWSEP program has not been available. It is recommended that a letter be sent to the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-foods, and the Provincial Minister of Agriculture requesting dedicated funding to allow the City to continue with the priority East Richmond drainage and irrigation works.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact at this time. Future drainage and irrigation upgrades are included in the 2011 – 2015 Capital program for Council consideration.

**Conclusion**

The infrastructure improvements in East Richmond to date have been well received by the farming community, and there is ongoing support from the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) to continue with improvements. Staff will continue to use the 2006 East Richmond Agricultural Water Supply Study to schedule upgrade projects into the 2011 – 2015 Capital Program for Council consideration.



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