



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: August 28, 2015

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

File: 10-6650-02/2015-Vol
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Re: 2015 Clothes Washer Rebate Program Update

Staff Recommendation

That:

1. the City extends the current partnership with BC Hydro to the end of this year to offer a combined rebate program, which will provide a rebate of up to \$200, equally cost shared between BC Hydro and the City, for the replacement of an inefficient clothes washer with a new high efficiency one;
2. the Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be authorized to execute an updated agreement with BC Hydro to extend the current program and update the specifications.

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Director, Engineering
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REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO: Finance Division Water Services	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

At the March 23, 2015 Regular Council Meeting, Council adopted the following motions:

- (1) That the City partner with BC Hydro to offer a combined rebate program May 1 to June 30 and October 1 to October 31 of this year, which will provide a rebate of up to \$200, equally cost shared between BC Hydro and the City, for the replacement of an inefficient clothes washer with a new high efficiency one;*
- (2) That the scope of the existing toilet rebate program funding be expanded to include clothes washer rebates; and*
- (3) That the CAO and General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be authorized to execute an agreement with BC Hydro to implement this program.*

This report updates Council on the current status of the Clothes Washer Rebate Program and requests extension of the fall program.

Analysis

2015 Clothes Washer Rebate Program

The program offered by BC Hydro ran from May 1 to June 30 of this year. Program participation was lower than expected, with 40 clothes washer rebates at a total cost of \$2,000 to the City. The specifications for the spring campaign were likely too stringent resulting in fewer models qualifying for the rebate.

In response, BC Hydro has extended the term from one month to two months (October 1 to November 30) and adjusted the specifications for the fall campaign. The fall campaign specifications have been collapsed so that there is one specification for each level of rebate. In the past there were two specifications for the \$50 rebate. As a result, it is anticipated that the City will see an increased number of rebates for the fall program.

Staff recommend the City adjust the specifications for the fall campaign and extend the term to the end of this year to encompass BC Hydro's proposed extension and any future extensions that may be requested.

Financial Impact

Staff recommend that the rebates continue to be funded from the approved toilet rebate program. The toilet rebate program has an annual budget of \$100,000, with \$46,923 remaining in 2015. Staff anticipate that this funding will be sufficient and will report back to Council if there is higher than anticipated participation.

BC Hydro will cover all costs associated with program administration.

Conclusion

BC Hydro has adjusted their specifications and extended the term of the fall Clothes Washer Rebate Program from one month to two months. Council previously agreed to participate in the combined rebate program for the month of October. Staff recommend the City adjust the specifications for the fall campaign and extend the term to the end of this year to encompass BC Hydro's proposed extension and any future extensions that may be requested.



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LB:ch