

Staff Report

Origin

At the April 28th Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting, the following referral was made:

That staff investigate and report back to Committee on the feasibility and options for a sanitary water dump for recreational vehicles in Richmond including but not limited to a site at the sewage treatment plant on the south arm of the Fraser River or at other commercial operations.

Background

Currently, there are no public sanitary dump stations in the City. Existing facilities located at the Shell gas station at Garden City/Lansdowne Road and the Richmond Tourism site at Hwy 99 just north of the tunnel were both closed around 2009. As well, the sanitary dump located at the Delta Town and Country Inn, just south of the tunnel on Hwy 99 in Delta, closed around 2008.

On October 22, 2012, Council adopted the resolution for staff to issue an Expression of Interest for a Sanitary Dump Station with the City contributing up to \$10,000 to assist with the installations of utility services and report back with recommendations based on the results. The Request for Expressions of Interest – 4753 EOI Supply and Installation and Operation of a Sanitary Dump Station was published on BC Bid as well as local newspapers and the City's website in December 2012. Staff contacted several potential sites, however, there was no interest in the market and no vendors responded to the request.

Analysis

The closures of public sanitary dump stations over the years have been mostly due to low returns on investment and abuse and mistreatment of the system; thus resulting in additional costly repairs. From discussions with the operators, we were advised that the majority of the abuse comes from commercial vehicles dumping chemicals and other noncompliant liquids into the holding tanks or conveyance systems. The operators also mentioned that recreational vehicle owners were not cleaning up after using the facility, which required extra staff time.

On June 3, 2015, City staff met with Metro Vancouver to discuss the possibility of installing a sanitary dump at either Iona or Lulu Island treatment plants in Richmond. Metro Vancouver concluded that they were not interested in installing a public sanitary dump station at either of these locations at this time given the additional infrastructure and staff costs.

Staff have also investigated the feasibility of a City operated sanitary dump station at the former Minoru sewage treatment plant. The Minoru sanitary pump station is located in the parking lot at the back of Gateway Theatre. The site is constrained by the Richmond Hospital to the north, Gateway Theatre to the south, Gilbert Road to the west, and Minoru Park to the east. Staff have concluded that operating a sanitary dump station at this location is not feasible due to limited

space. Also, there is limited access into the parking lot of Gateway Theatre and recreational vehicles would have trouble entering and exiting this area.

An alternative approach would be to advise owners of recreational vehicles to empty their holding tanks before returning to Richmond. Sanidump.com identifies the locations of sanitary dump stations and within a 30 km radius outside Richmond Staff found nine active Sani Dump Stations which are privately owned and operated in Delta, Surrey, Coquitlam, Burnaby and North Vancouver.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Staff have determined that connecting a sanitary dump station to the City's Sewage Treatment Plant and/or operating a sanitary dump station at the former Minoru sewage treatment plant are not feasible options at this time. The lack of responses for the Request for Expression of Interest in late 2012 confirmed that there is no interest for this type of operation in the commercial sector. Due to an absence of functional space, proven low return on investment and the labour-intensive nature of this type of operation, staff recommend that the City does not operate a City-owned dump station. An alternative option is to advise owners of recreational vehicles to empty their holding tanks before returning to Richmond.



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