



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee

Date: December 15, 2014

From: Joe Erceg
General Manager, Planning and Development

File: 01-0100-30-AADV1-
01/2014 Vol 01

Re: Agricultural Advisory Committee 2014 Annual Report and 2015 Work Program



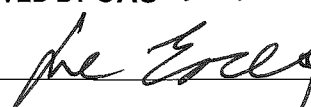
Staff Recommendation

That the 2015 Agricultural Advisory Committee Work Program be approved.



Joe Erceg
General Manager, Planning and Development

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 
APPROVED BY CAO DEPUTY	
	

Staff Report

Origin

The Richmond Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) was established in 2003 upon Council approval of the Richmond Agricultural Viability Strategy (RAVS). A primary role of the AAC is to provide advice from an agricultural perspective to Council, City staff and other stakeholders on a wide-range of issues and projects that impact agricultural activities in Richmond and to help implement the recommendations contained in the RAVS.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference for the AAC, this report summarizes the activities of the Committee in 2014 and recommends a 2015 Work Program for consideration and approval by Council. The AAC reviewed and endorsed the proposed work program at its meeting held on November 20, 2014.

Summary of 2014 Annual Report

The detailed 2014 Annual Report is contained in Attachment 1. Highlights are as follows:

- Reviewed and provided comments on a total of eight development proposals related to or affecting agricultural activities.
- Received regular updates and provided comments on various City policies and initiatives (e.g., Ecological Network Management Strategy, Garden City Lands Legacy Landscape Plan).
- Received regular updates and presentations from Transportation and Engineering staff on works and projects within the Agricultural Land Reserve (e.g., East Richmond Water Supply Study; Westminster Highway and Nelson Road widening).
- Received information and commented on local food awareness events and initiatives.
- Received information on initiatives, funding programs and farming advisory information sheets from the Ministry of Agriculture staff.

Summary of Proposed 2015 Work Program

The detailed 2015 Work Program is contained in Attachment 2. The following is a summary of highlights for the proposed 2015 work program.

- Review and provide feedback on development proposals forwarded to the AAC by staff and Council.
- Review and provide comments on the proposed changes to the Soil Removal and Fill Deposit Regulation Bylaw.
- Continue to receive regular updates from Engineering staff on available funding and the proposed design and construction of drainage and irrigation works.
- Continue to receive updates on major transportation works including George Massey Tunnel replacement project and upcoming consultations.
- Received updates on the Metro Vancouver's Farm Property Tax Investigation and provide comments when requested.
- Examine options to help promote local agricultural and food awareness.

- Continue to monitor and implement the RAVS and recommend improvements as necessary.

Conclusion

The 2014 Annual Report for the AAC is submitted for information and the 2015 Work Program is recommended for Council approval.



For

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MP:cas

Attachment 1: Draft AAC 2014 Annual Report
Attachment 2: Draft AAC 2015 Work Program

**2014 ANNUAL REPORT
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Agricultural Advisory Committee 2014 Accomplishments

Projects	Results Expected	Accomplishments and Comments
Development Proposals	Agricultural perspective and advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and provided comments on a total of eight development proposals forwarded by staff. Projects covered issues related to development of agricultural landscape buffers to screen projects in and adjacent to the ALR; non-farm use proposals to place fill, enable new processing operations and allow parking for expansion of a temple; a Development Variance Permit application for a new assembly hall; and a rezoning application to make changes to the previously approved child care facility in the ALR. (see the List of Development Proposals below)
Richmond Policy Initiatives	Agricultural perspective and advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received information on the Ecological Network Management Strategy and provided feedback in developing its implementation plan.
External Agency Policy Initiatives Requests for Feedback	Receive information and updates and provide agricultural comments and perspectives to the agency (through council) when requested.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received information on initiatives, funding programs and farming advisory information sheets (e.g., manure spreading advisories) from Ministry of Agriculture staff. Received information on the Ministry of Agriculture's consultations on proposed changes to the ALC Regulation and proposed set of criteria for developing local government bylaws regarding medical marihuana production in the ALR.
Drainage/Irrigation Program for Agricultural Areas	Provide comments from an agricultural perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received regular updates from Engineering staff on works associated with the East Richmond Agricultural Water Supply Study.
Major Transportation Projects	Provide comments and feedback from an agricultural perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received regular updates from the City project team on Westminster Highway and Nelson Road widening. Review and comments from AAC members focussed on ensuring that works associated with the road widening took into account existing agricultural irrigation and drainage infrastructure that are located in close proximity to road widening works.
Public Awareness and Local Food Initiatives	Improved awareness and understanding of agriculture and its role in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received information on local food awareness events. Received information from Richmond Food Security Society on its Richmond Food Charter project and brainstormed and shared ideas.
General Agricultural Related Issues	Identify specific projects and initiatives that impact agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and provided comments on Garden City Lands Legacy Landscape Plan.

List of Development Proposals Reviewed in 2014

Application No.	Address of property	Proposed use
AG 14-654361	7011 No. 7 Road	Non-farm use application to locate four soil processing operations (Ecowaste Industries).
NF 14-654364	7011 No. 7 Road	Non-farm use application to place fill and remove materials in conjunction with existing land fill operation (Ecowaste Industries).
RZ 12-695038	7211 No. 4 Road	78-unit townhouse proposal adjacent to the ALR. Review of the proposed ALR landscape buffer.
RZ 13-630280	13751 and 13851 Steveston Highway & 10651 No. 6 Road	Rezoning to permit light industrial and limited commercial uses adjacent to the ALR. Review of the proposed ALR landscape buffer.
DP 14-665485	7211 No. 4 Road	General updates and refinements made to the proposed ALR landscape buffer provision to be incorporated into the townhouse project.
DV 14-670015	11014 Westminster Highway	Proposal to reduce the interior side yard setbacks to enable an assembly hall to be rebuilt within the same footprint.
AG 14-668409	18791 Westminster Hwy	Additional parking for special events associated with temple functions.
RZ 14-671974	10019 Granville Avenue	Proposal to increase the maximum number of children permitted at a child care facility from 37 to 88 on a site contained in the ALR (the site is exempt from the ALC Act provisions).

**2015 WORK PROGRAM
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

AAC Role in the Work Program

- Assist in implementing the 2041 Official Community Plan and 2012 Richmond Agricultural Viability Strategy (RAVS).
- 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 and adjacent to the ALR.
- Receive for information, reports and materials forwarded from external agencies (Ministry of Agriculture, Metro Vancouver, ALC, NGOs). Provide comments and feedback (through Council) when requested.
- Participate in public meetings and consult on work program projects.
- Continue to improve local agricultural awareness and education initiatives and take the lead role in organizing agricultural showcase events.
- Receive regular updates on projects and works related to agriculture.
- Invite City Divisions to liaise with the AAC as early as possible on works deemed to have an impact on farming so that the Committee can provide advice. These proactive initiatives will help to inform agricultural stakeholders of forthcoming works and enable the AAC to appropriately comment and give feedback.

AAC Proposed 2015 Work Program

Projects	Results Expected	Objectives and Deliverables
Development Projects	Agricultural perspective and advice to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review development proposals forwarded to the AAC from staff or Council. • Provide comments and work with proponents to modify development proposals to meet City policies and address Committee comments when needed.
Transportation Works and Projects	Agricultural perspective and input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to receive updates and provide comments on transportation works in and adjacent to ALR land that may impact agriculture. • Receive regular updates and comment on the Westminster Highway and Nelson Road widening project relating to detailed design and construction activity. • George Massey Tunnel replacement project – continue to receive updates on the project, upcoming consultation and requested stakeholder feedback from the Ministry of Transportation project team.
Richmond Agricultural Viability Strategy Policy Updates	Agricultural perspective and input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and update the recommendations of the RAVS based on the progress and work completed.
Fees and Enforcement	Agricultural perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and provide comments on the

Projects	Results Expected	Objectives and Deliverables
Options for Soil Removal and Deposit Activities in the ALR	and input	proposed bylaw amendments.
Metro Vancouver's Farm Property Tax Investigation	Agricultural perspective and input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive updates on the Metro Vancouver's Farm Property Tax Investigation and provide comments when requested.
Drainage and Irrigation	Agricultural perspective and input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive regular updates from Engineering staff on available funding and the proposed design and construction of drainage and irrigation works.
Public Awareness and Local Food Initiatives	Improved awareness and understanding of agriculture and its role in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAC to examine options to look at promoting local agricultural and food awareness. • Investigate trespassing and crop theft issues along Shell Road Trail and look for mitigating measures with City staff
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 Richmond Agricultural Viability Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive updated statistics and data on agriculture and comment on findings and trends. • Update the City's website as appropriate.
AAC Action Items Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool used by the Committee to monitor specific initiatives and projects of importance to the AAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to utilize the AAC Action Items Table to manage and report progress on initiatives and projects.