

23. Re: Municipal Treatment Plant Assistance Act

Following is an excerpt from the minutes of a Greater Vancouver Regional District meeting which was held on May 30, 1973. It concerns the subject Act, which when enacted in 1969, provided that the Provincial Government would pay 75% of the debt charges in excess of 2 mills on eligible treatment plant facilities.

"It was our understanding with the Department of Finance that, since sewerage treatment facilities in this area are organized on a regional basis and are owned by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage & Drainage District, the District could in effect act as the agent for the municipalities and could submit the applications and information required to obtain approval of the facilities eligible for assistance under the Act. Approvals have since been obtained for eligible facilities. It was also our understanding with the Provincial Government that the municipalities were in effect paying the debt charges on eligible facilities when they paid their annual levy to the District and that the municipalities would submit their own claims for assistance under the Act based on information supplied by the District.

The Department of Finance has since taken the position that under the present legislation, it cannot pay grants to any of our municipalities. In November 1972, the Chairman of the Board submitted a brief to the Premier and Minister of Finance requesting that the Act be amended to accomplish the following:

1. Regional Districts and Sewerage Districts may act as the agent for their member municipalities and electoral areas for the purpose of the Act, including among other things, the financing of facilities, the submission of plans for approval for eligibility of facilities and the submission of details of financial transactions.
2. Facilities that were constructed and/or financed prior to the enactment of the Act shall be included for the purposes of the Act, provided they otherwise qualify.
3. Member municipalities and electoral areas are deemed to have paid debt charges when they pay their annual tax requisition or levy to a Regional District or Sewerage District.
4. Only the taxable assessed values of property situated within a specified sewerage area should be included in determining the two mill calculation, inasmuch as such property owners are paying all of the relative debt charges.
5. For the purposes of the two mill calculation, the assessed values shall be determined pursuant to the provisions of the Assessment Equalization Act and shall be 100% of the assessed value of land and 75% of the assessed value of improvements as fixed for taxation for general municipal purposes.
6. Interest on temporary capital borrowing shall be included with long term interest and principal repayment for the purposes of the Act.

Municipalities and electoral areas shall submit their own claims for assistance under the Act."

Continued ...

ITEM 23

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 47

COUNCIL MEETING June 25/73

23. Re: Municipal Treatment Plant Assistance Act - Cont'd.

In summary, the legislation presently only applies to municipalities separately undertaking the construction of sewerage control facilities and applies only to work contemplated after the date of passage of the Act (1969) and only if prior approval is given. If it applied to all costs incurred for sewerage pollution control no matter when installed, the saving to Burnaby by 1976 would be 0.43 mills. We have been working on this problem with the G.V.R.D. for some time.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the appropriate resolution be prepared and forwarded to the U.B.C.M. requesting that the Provincial Government be urged to provide the benefits which were intended to be conferred upon municipalities of all Regional Districts by the Municipal Treatment Plan Assistance Act.