

ITEM 51
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 43
COUNCIL MEETING June 10/74

Re: Letter dated May 15, 1974 from Mr. D.L. MacKay
Chief Engineer, Greater Vancouver Sewerage & Drainage District
Requesting reconsideration of a Decision to Not Approve of
Piping North Branch of Still Creek - Boundary to Lougheed

Appearing on the Agenda for the June 10, 1974 Council meeting is a letter dated May 15, 1974 from Mr. D.L. MacKay, Chief Engineer, Greater Vancouver Sewerage & Drainage District, requesting that Council reconsider its decision to not approve of piping the North Branch of Still Creek between Boundary Road and the Lougheed Highway.

The following is the report of the Director of Planning in this connection dated June 6, 1974.

The Municipal Manager concurs with the Director of Planning and Parks & Recreation Administrator's recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the recommendation of the Director of Planning as outlined in this report be adopted.

* * * * *

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
JUNE 6, 1974

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: PLANNING DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: STILL CREEK NORTH BRANCH BETWEEN
BOUNDARY ROAD AND LOUGHEED HIGHWAY

Appearing on the Council agenda for June 10, 1974 is a letter from Mr. D. L. MacKay, Chief Engineer, the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District, concerning a proposal to enclose a portion of the North Branch of Still Creek through B.C. Hydro property north of the Lougheed Highway.

Council will recall that at the meeting of April 22, 1974, it adopted the recommendations of Manager's Report No. 31, Item 11 (copy attached) concerning this topic, to not approve of the proposed enclosure at that time, and to review the matter upon completion of two separate studies concerning watercourses, which are currently in progress. The reasons for recommending preservation in an open condition at that time were related to two factors: principally, the concern of the Department of Environmental Health for water quality (visual inspection, sampling points, access for corrective operations, and biological benefits) and secondarily, the suggestion of the Parks and Recreation Department that the alignment be considered as part of a potential future link from Burnaby's Park Trail System to Vancouver's open space system.

Subsequently, further discussions have taken place between representatives of B.C. Hydro, the G.V.R.D., Health Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and Planning Department staff. We are now advised that the Chief Public Health Inspector is satisfied with a more detailed proposal by the G.V.R.D. for an improved enclosure scheme that provides adequate inspection chambers and access hatches for visual observations and sampling of water quality in the stream. Moreover, it has been tentatively established by work in the Still Creek study that the principal constituents of existing pollution in the stream are, in fact, oil and industrial wastes, which are not to any appreciable degree subject to improvement by aeration, sunlight, or other normal biological processes. (The solution to this aspect of the problem appears to be prevention at the source,

rather than treatment in the stream course, and this work is being carried out by the Health Department in collaboration with the G.V.S.D.D. officials.) This conclusion corroborates the statements contained in the third paragraph of Mr. MacKay's letter.

Concerning the potential link with Vancouver's open space system, the Parks and Recreation Department has given further consideration to this matter and has explored with B.C. Hydro representatives Mr. MacKay's suggestion to skirt the perimeter of the site. We are now informed that as a result of this further study, the Parks and Recreation Department has no interest in this alignment other than to ask that the Health Department ensure that it does not have the effect of polluting Still Creek. As noted in the earlier report, this alignment does not form a part of the walking trail system currently proposed by the Planning Department, and inasmuch as the Supervisor of Park Planning is now satisfied that this route is not suitable but that a good alternative exists, the reservation concerning the Park Trail System seems to have been resolved.

In summary, therefore, the Department of Environmental Health is prepared to support enclosure subject to the provision of suitable inspection chambers with access hatches, information on what drains presently discharge into the watercourse within Hydro's property, and a statement of what is intended to be discharged in future; and the Parks and Recreation Department has concluded that the alignment will not provide a viable route for a future open space link. In the light of these conclusions, it is not now expected that the results of either the Still Creek system water quality study or the Watercourse Study inventory of streams in this Municipality will determine that this man-made stream course must be retained in an open condition.

Recommendation:

As a result of further study, discussion, and design, it may now be recommended to Council that:

- 1) the earlier resolutions of Council (April 22, 1974) concerning this matter be rescinded, and
- 2) the Council agree to the enclosure of that portion of the North Branch of Still Creek lying between Boundary Road and the Lougheed Highway subject to:
 - a) the provision of suitable access and inspection chambers,
 - b) the identification of all present outfalls into the stream course in this section, and
 - c) a statement of all intended discharges into the waterway in this section,all of the above to the satisfaction of the Chief Public Health Inspector, and
- 3) a copy of this report be sent to Mr. D. L. MacKay, Chief Engineer for the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District and to B.C. Hydro and Power Authority.

A.L.P.
DGS:cm
Attach.

A. L. Parr,
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING.

c.c. Municipal Engineer
Chief Public Health Inspector
Parks and Recreation Administrator

ITEM 51

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 43

COUNCIL MEETING June 10/74

ITEM 11

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 31

COUNCIL MEETING April 22/74

Re: Proposal to Pipe North Branch of Still Creek
Between Lougheed and Boundary Road

Following is a report from the Director of Planning regarding a request for permission to enclose the portion of Still Creek which flows through B.C. Hydro property from Lougheed Highway to Boundary Road.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT Council advise the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District that it does not approve of the enclosure of that portion of the North Branch of Still Creek between Boundary Road and the Lougheed Highway at this time; and

THAT this matter be reviewed upon completion of the two studies mentioned in the Director of Planning's report; and

THAT a copy of this report be sent to B.C. Hydro & Power Authority and to Mr. D.L. MacKay, Chief Engineer for the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District.

* * * * *

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
APRIL 18, 1974

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO PIPE NORTH BRANCH OF STILL CREEK
BETWEEN LOUGHEED HIGHWAY AND BOUNDARY ROAD

At the Council meeting of April 16, a proposal by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District to pipe a portion of existing open watercourse across the B.C. Hydro lands was discussed.

This waterway is known as the North Branch of the Still Creek system, originating in the north-east sector of Vancouver and flowing south-eastward to join the main stream of Still Creek just east of Gilmore Avenue. This stream exists at present as an open waterway through its course in Burnaby, and flows entirely through industrially zoned lands. The attached sketch indicates the portion under examination at this time.

Unlike the main channel of Still Creek, the North Branch alignment does not form a part of the currently-proposed walking trail system through this part of the Municipality, although the Supervisor of Park Planning advises that this alignment could form part of a potential link to Vancouver's open space system, and that this recreational potential should be carefully considered for future refinement of the park-trail system.

It is our understanding that the owner of the property, B.C. Hydro and Power Authority, is anxious to have the channel enclosed to facilitate its use of the site, the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District is prepared to have the work done, and the Municipal Engineer has no specific objections to the enclosure.

However, the Department of Environmental Health advises that the water quality of this particular stream has been poor and that preservation of the stream in an open condition is preferred from an environmental point of view for a variety of reasons. Maintenance of the open waterway on easement permits immediate visual inspection of the water quality, proper opportunity for sampling check points, and provides for immediate and direct corrective operations in the event of spills or other contamination upstream. Moreover, there

ITEM 51
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 43
COUNCIL MEETING June 10/74

ITEM 11
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 31
COUNCIL MEETING April 22/74

is a certain benefit from biological action (aeration, sunlight, etc.) in the open stream which would not be present in a piped waterway, a consideration which is significant in this particular case.

Council will recall that on October 9, 1973, it directed that pending a full report on the preservation and conservation of streams within the Municipality, any proposed development involving watercourses within the Municipality be presented to Council for consideration prior to approval. Work on this major study is in progress, and an amount to permit the retention of outside consultants as part of this study was included as part of the 1974 Departmental budget request. Moreover, a joint water quality study dealing specifically with the Still Creek system is currently underway under the auspices of the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

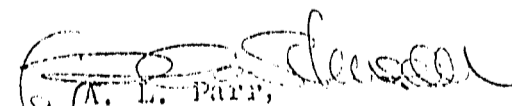
The results of these studies will provide Council with the information necessary to establish clear policies on the piping or retention of specific open watercourses. In the case of the stream under present consideration, it is apparent that there are important reasons related to pollution and control why the watercourse should not be enclosed at this time.


In view of the aforementioned direction of Council, the status of the studies relating to streams in general and this system in particular, and the concern expressed by the Department of Environmental Health regarding health and pollution abatement matters in connection with this watercourse, your staff are obliged to recommend that no approval to enclose this portion of waterway be given at this time.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

1. Council advise the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District that it does not approve of the enclosure of that portion of the North Branch of Still Creek between Boundary Road and the Lougheed Highway at this time, and that
2. This matter be reviewed upon completion of the two studies mentioned above.


G. L. Parr,
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING.


DGS:cm
Attach.

c.c. Municipal Engineer
Chief Public Health Inspector
Parks and Recreation Administrator

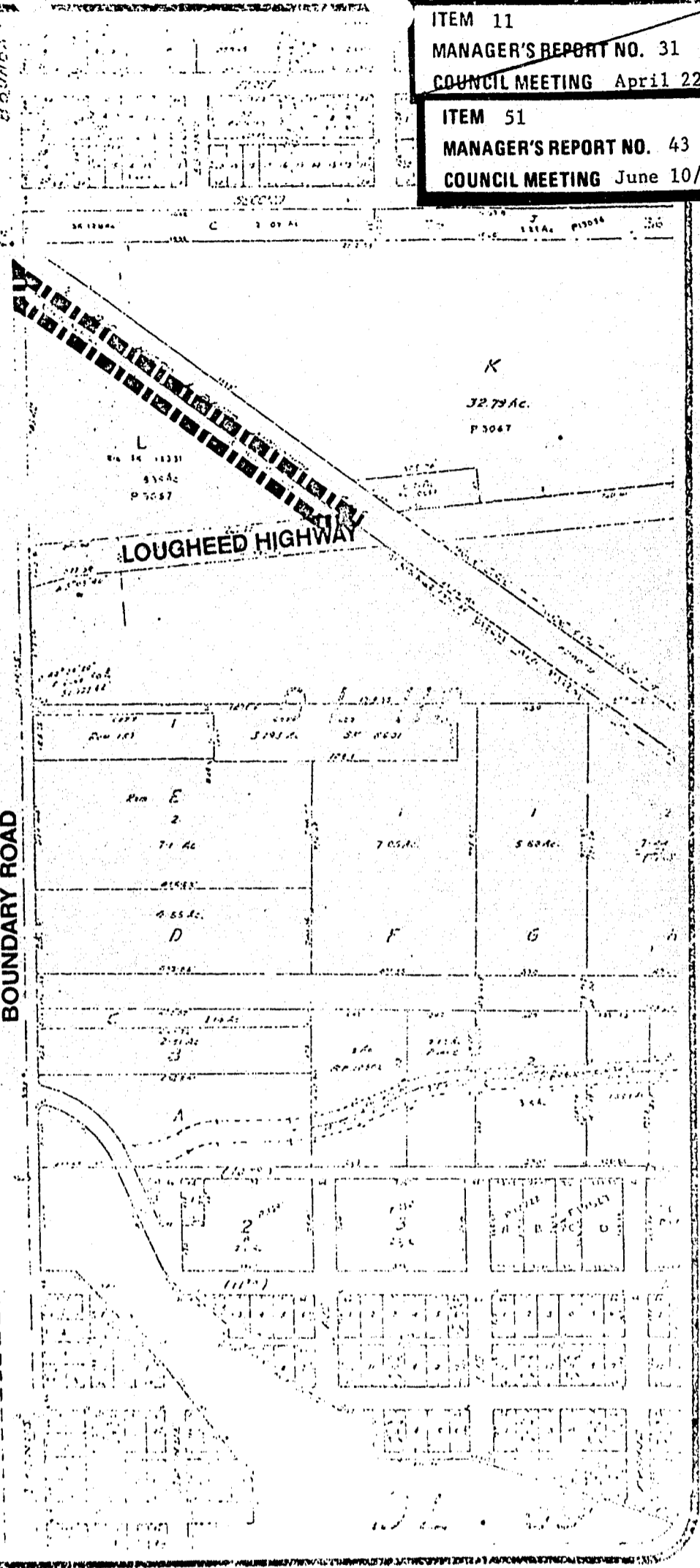
CITY OF HAS

North

WIMCOWER
HASTINGS

BOUNDARY ROAD

BOUNDARY ROAD



ITEM 11
 MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 31
 COUNCIL MEETING April 22/74

ITEM 51
 MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 43
 COUNCIL MEETING June 10/74

SCALE 1"=400'

DB

18/4/74

Portion of North Branch
 proposed to be enclosed.



CURNAY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 114