

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

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.

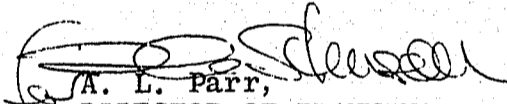
The results of these studies will provide Council with the information necessary to establish clear policies on the piping or retention of specific open watercourses. In the case of the stream under present consideration, it is apparent that there are important reasons related to pollution and control 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.

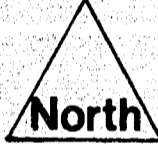
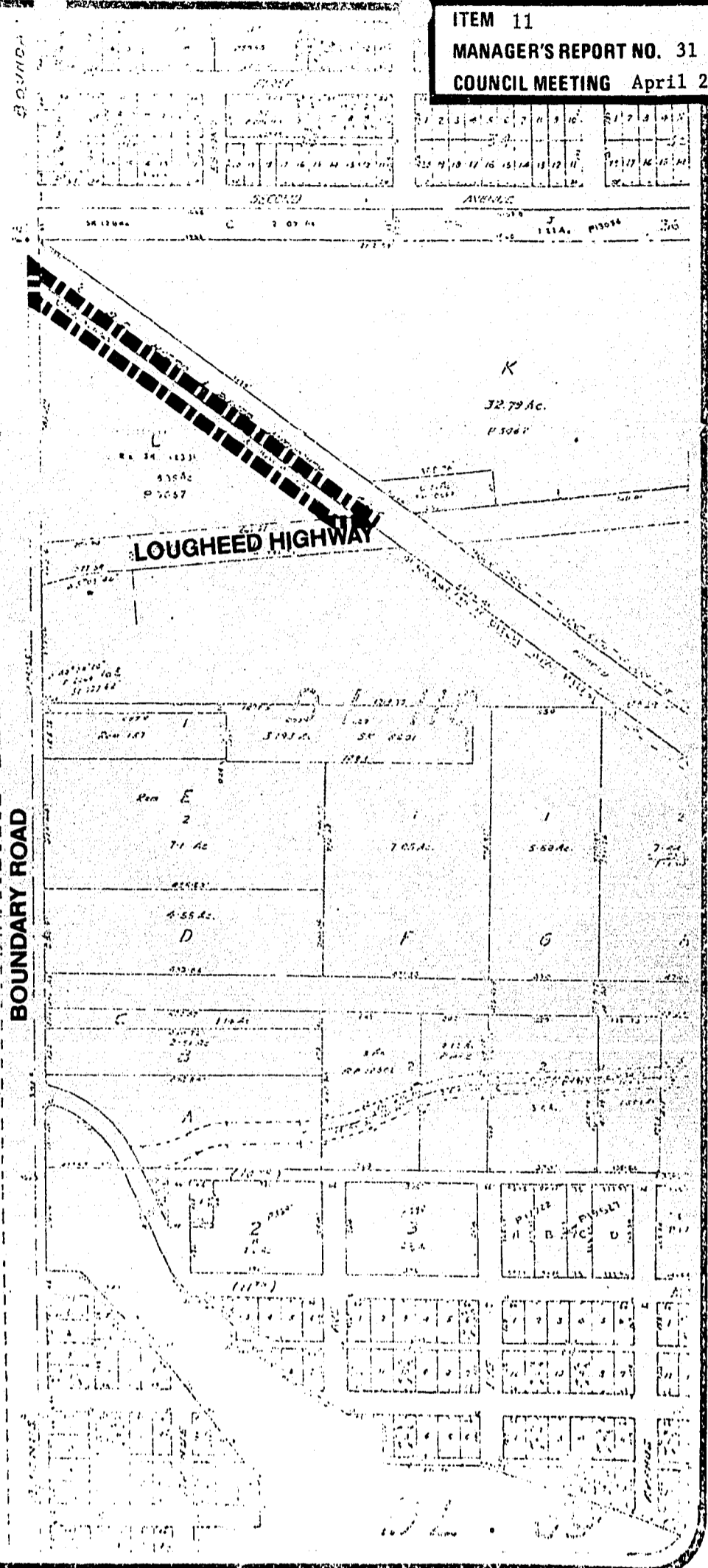
  
A. L. Parr,  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING.

  
DGS:cm  
Attach.

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

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CITY OF  
 HASTINGS



MUNICIPALITY OF  
 HASTINGS

SCALE 1" = 400'  
 DB  
 18/4/74

Portion of North Branch  
 proposed to be enclosed.



BURNABY PLANNING DEPARTMENT