

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY  
ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND ALDERMEN

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
RE: G.V.R.D.'S MACLAREN ENGINEERS' REPORT ENTITLED WASTE  
REDUCTION AND RECYCLING IN THE G.V.R.D.: A BLUEPRINT  
FOR COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, JUNE 1989"

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council endorse the G.V.R.D.'s MacLaren Report subject to the qualifications contained in this report.
2. THAT copies of this report be sent to:
  - (a) Mr. M.J. O'Connor, P. Eng.  
Regional Manager  
Greater Vancouver Regional District  
4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C., V5H 4G8.
  - (b) All municipalities within the Greater Vancouver Regional District.
  - (c) The Recycling Sub-Committee of the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Water and Waste Management Committee.

REPORT

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its meeting held 1989 July 25 received a report from the Acting Director Engineering regarding the G.V.R.D.'s MacLaren Report.

The Acting Director Engineering reported as follows:

"BACKGROUND

Council, at its regular meeting of 1988 September 19, adopted the recommendation that ".....Council support the development of a comprehensive regional recycling strategy by the Greater Vancouver Regional District in association with member municipalities, as further outlined in this report." Major conclusions of this Council report were that "Any major recycling initiative should be coordinated and implemented on a regional basis." and "A comprehensive regional recycling strategy is imperative for undertaking effective recycling initiatives.". This report further stated that ".....this strategy should address the methodologies of attaining the regional S.W.M.P. goal (of recycling 100,000 tonnes of waste annually) by a specific and fixed date.". The G.V.R.D.'s MacLaren Report, a copy of which is available for viewing in the Clerk's office, is presently a G.V.R.D. internal document intended to be a "Strategy and Action Plan for the G.V.R.D." for waste reduction and recycling.

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:

- : - AGENDA 1989 AUGUST 08
- : - COPY - MUNICIPAL MANAGER
- ACTING DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIRECTOR ADMIN. & COMM. SERV.
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BLDG. INSP.
- DIRECTOR REC. & CULT. SERV.
- CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

### THE MACLAREN REPORT

The report prepared by MacLaren Engineers is entitled "Waste Reduction and Recycling in the G.V.R.D.": A Blueprint for Comprehensive Resource Management" and will be received by the G.V.R.D. Administration Board at its meeting of 1989 July 26. As mentioned previously, until that time the report should be considered a G.V.R.D. internal document.

G.V.R.D. staff suggest their next step will be to prepare a detailed "Action Plan" based upon the MacLaren Report which will be submitted to their Administration Board in 1989, September.

Engineering Department staff have extensively reviewed this report and are strongly in agreement with its basic philosophy and overall direction. Staff agree with the outlined aggressive and innovative approach to solid waste management which views solid waste not as garbage to be disposed of, but as a resource to be managed. This concept of "Harvesting the Urban Forest" (i.e. waste paper) and "Conserving the Urban Mine" (i.e. waste metals, glass and organics) entails considering these wastes as significant, potential sources of raw materials, or resources, which should be utilized in industrial processes.

Staff also concur with the MacLaren Report being used as a "road map" for arriving at the primary goals of reduce, reuse, and recycle by various paths such that the flexibility required by member municipalities is not sacrificed. Inherent in this road map concept is the shared responsibility for the creation and success of the Resource Management System.

Although, as mentioned, staff concurs with the MacLaren Report in its basic philosophy, there are two specific concepts which require further clarification; namely, Regional Processing Centres and the timetable for implementation of the Report's "Action Plan".

### REGIONAL PROCESSING CENTRES

The first is the question of the role the G.V.R.D. will play in the provision of facilities for processing recovered materials (Regional Processing Centres). The MacLaren Report states that "A decision must be made early on regarding the role that G.V.R.D. will play in the provision of facilities for processing recovered materials. This is a complex issue, but of key importance since the way it is resolved will have far-reaching impacts on the structure of the Resource Management System and the nature of the relationship between G.V.R.D. and its member municipalities." The MacLaren Report identifies two options, namely:

Option 1 - Groups of member municipalities can assume responsibility for establishing facilities to serve their collective requirements; and

Option 2 - G.V.R.D. can assume responsibility for establishing processing facilities to receive recyclable materials,

and goes on to recommend Option 2 as the preferred option.

It is staff's opinion that Option 2 is the only viable option and as such should form the cornerstone of the regional recycling strategy. Option 1 could lead to the "balkanization" of the processing/marketing facilities - larger municipalities grouping together could conceivably have greater returns due to larger marketable quantities and consequently smaller municipalities would shoulder a disproportionately larger per capita cost of recycling. It would not be economical for each municipality to set up its own marketing/processing facility.

REGIONAL PROCESSING CENTRES (Cont'd.)

In addition, it is staff's opinion that such marketing/processing centres are just another form of disposal of solid wastes and the G.V.R.D., on the basis of the 1973 amendments to the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Act and subsequent actions of the Regional District and certain specific municipalities, has assumed the responsibility for the disposal of solid wastes in these specific member municipalities.

Regarding making a decision relative to Regional Processing Centres "early on", staff would urge this decision be made without delay and, in fact, form part of the G.V.R.D.'s Action Plan to be submitted to its Administration Board in September. Several member municipalities have been awaiting this decision and any further delays will have a cumulative effect on the timing for implementation of a multi-material curbside collection program.

Delaying this decision may also cause member municipalities, due to public pressure, to enter into alternate arrangements which could make either a group (Option 1) or a regional (Option 2) processing facility redundant. Thus, by delaying its decision, the G.V.R.D. could be choosing a third option, one which may be less attractive in the long term.

ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

As mentioned earlier in this report, a regional strategy should set specific and fixed dates for implementing its recycling initiatives, and while the MacLaren Report does establish an Action Plan Implementation Schedule, it is staff's opinion that several of the goals are set too far in the future.

An example is regarding residential recycling initiatives. The MacLaren Report's Action Plan Implementation Schedule has member municipalities establishing Recycling Plans by the end of 1991. If the G.V.R.D. were to set up criteria for these Recycling Plans as a priority, they could be established, reviewed, and adopted by mid-1990 at the latest.

Another example is composting facilities being scheduled for implementation in 1993. Composting of yard and garden wastes can make a significant impact on reducing the amount of municipal solid waste requiring disposal and is a proven technology. Private contractors exist at the present time who would likely tender for the supply of these services. A more appropriate Implementation Schedule for this initiative would be end-1990.

SUMMARY

Staff are very supportive of the philosophies expressed in the MacLaren Report and notwithstanding the preceding qualifications would recommend the Committee endorse it."

The Environment and Waste Management Committee endorsed the MacLaren Report based on the qualifications set out in this report and therefore so recommend same to Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman J.M. Sawicki  
Chair

Alderman D.R. Corrigan  
Member

Alderman D.P. Drummond  
Member

