

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1991 MAY 13
FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING FILE: 41-02-01
SUBJECT: COMBINED SEWER OUTFALLS - NOTICE OF MOTION

PURPOSE: To respond to the Notice of Motion received by Council at the regular meeting of 1991 March 18 concerning combined sewer outfalls to Burrard Inlet.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council support the Regional District's plan to monitor the combined sewer diversion structures and to install additional signs at the outfalls.
2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Regional Manager, Greater Vancouver Regional District, 6200 Kingsway, Burnaby.

REPORT

1.0 Background

At the regular meeting of 1991 March 18, Council received a status report from staff on the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Liquid Waste Management Study.

Arising from discussion of the staff report, Council received the following resolution and referred same to staff for comment and evaluation.

THAT WHEREAS the Gilmore, Willingdon and Westridge combined sewer and water pipes spew raw sewage directly from the beach area into Burrard Inlet during rainstorms approximately 100 to 150 times per year, and;

WHEREAS raw sewage has recently also been observed flowing from the Willingdon line during dry weather due to the malfunctioning of a sewer pipe valve, and;

WHEREAS the signs at the pipe locations do not identify the possibility of the existence of raw sewage at the sites;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Burnaby Municipal staff be asked to examine the feasibility and desirability of requesting the GVRD:

1. Install signs at each Burnaby Burrard Inlet beach location which would more clearly identify the area as a combined sewer and water pipe outlet and

2. Investigate the feasibility of a system which would alert passersby to any sewage discharges to Burrard Inlet occurring during dry weather, i.e. warning lights located adjacent to the pipes, so that they can report the problem and
3. If an alert system can be provided, install another sign listing a telephone number to report the problem and **132**
4. Report to Burnaby Council on the feasibility and results of the requests.

2.0 Staff Comments

2.1 General

Municipal staff have reviewed the combined sewer outfalls at Gilmore, Willingdon and Westridge and discussed with GVRD staff the recent dry weather flow discharge at the Willingdon outfall and the proposed signage. Results of the discussion and actions to be undertaken are summarized as follows:

2.2 Dry Weather Flow Discharge at Willingdon Outfall

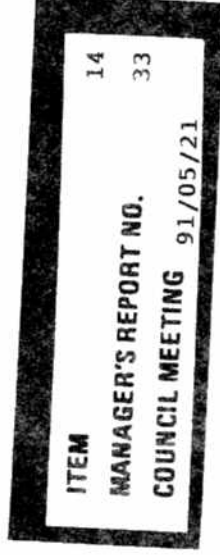
The Regional District reported that the recent incident which involved the discharge of sewage to the Willingdon outfall in dry weather was caused by an obstruction at the diversion weir in the manhole upstream of the outfall pipe. Under normal operating conditions, the dry weather flow is discharged to the trunk sewer main and the excess flow is diverted to the outfall pipe only when prolonged periods of rainfall occur and the capacity of the Regional District's trunk sewer is exceeded.

The Regional District was made aware of the dry weather flow discharge problem and since has removed the debris and obstruction lodged in the controlled diversion manhole. In addition, modifications have been made to the weir configuration to ameliorate possible future recurrences.

In April 1991, water sampling carried out by the Regional District confirms that the dry weather flow discharge problem has been rectified. The Regional District also indicated that the diversion structure will be monitored more frequently and tested as warranted in the future to ensure proper operation of the system.

2.3 Proposed Signage

The feasibility of installing flashing warning lights at the outfalls to warn the general public of dry weather flow discharge was investigated by the



Regional District. The sewer outfalls are used to convey combined sewer overflows during heavy rainfalls. If the flashing lights were installed, they would flash regularly as a part of the normal operation during rainfall events which may mislead passersby to believe that there was an operating problem. Therefore, the Regional District concluded that the warning light alternative is not advisable and would not provide an effective means of detecting potential operating problems. Staff concur with this conclusion.

Presently, there are informational signs on the bank indicating the location of the sewer outfall. However, it was agreed that additional signs will be placed to more clearly identify the outfall areas. The Regional District further agreed to monitor the outfalls more frequently as warranted to ensure proper function of the trunk sewer and overflows and to detect any dry weather flow discharge problem that may occur.

2.4 Conclusion

Staff support the proposed actions to install additional signs and to increase monitoring of the Regional facilities by the GVRD. It is felt that these measures will address the concerns raised in the Notice of Motion received by Council.

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DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

