

ITEM	8
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	50
COUNCIL MEETING	91/09/03

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1991 AUGUST 27  
FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING FILE: 60-01-01  
SUBJECT: SUSTAINING THE WATER RESOURCE -  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION PAPER  
PURPOSE: To provide Council with information on the Ministry of  
Environment's Discussion Paper - Sustaining the Water  
Resource.

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT copies of this report be sent to:
  - a) the Executive Director, Water Management Division,  
British Columbia Environment, and
  - b) the Greater Vancouver Water District.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Appearing on the agenda under Correspondence is a letter from the B.C. Ministry of Environment advising of a Discussion Paper entitled 'Sustaining the Water Resource'. A copy of the complete discussion paper is available in the Clerk's office however the content of the discussion paper is summarized in Appendix A. The Ministry of Environment advises that a new water management strategy has been developed and proposes new directions in seven areas, namely:

- . Water Export
- . Protecting Groundwater
- . Water Management, Planning and Instream Uses
- . Protecting Water Quality
- . Water Pricing and Conservation
- . Flood Protection
- . The Institutional Context

2.0 MUNICIPAL IMPACTS

2.1 Potable Water

As Council is aware, Burnaby buys its potable water supply from the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD). Thus the new water management strategies will most directly impact Burnaby in its role in the GVWD. The GVWD currently manages and operates three watershed areas, ie. Capilano, Seymour and Coquitlam Lakes. These lakes provide a source of surface water supply to the Lower Mainland area. The GVWD has developed plans for watershed management, water conservation and improving water quality.

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2.1 Cont.

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The discussion paper advocates protection of groundwater and water quality, proposes an integrated use approach to water management planning and promotes water conservation. These philosophical views are consistent with the policies of the GVWD and Council. The discussion paper is very general and provides no details of proposed legislation and regulations. The discussion paper is silent on timing of programs and costs.

2.2 Flood Protection

Floodplain Management impacts upon Burnaby in its Big Bend Area. Council has recently adopted a seven year program for drainage improvements in the Big Bend. The drainage improvements include dyking and bank protection. The Municipality has applied for but has not been successful in receiving funding assistance for these works.

The discussion paper proposes floodplain management be carried out by local government and seeks continued funding assistance for dyking and bank protection. These philosophical statements are again consistent with Burnaby's position however similarly to the other initiatives, the discussion paper has no specifics on financial commitments and timing.

3.0 SUMMARY

The generalized approaches expressed in the discussion paper are consistent with Burnaby's position on issues such as sustainable development concepts, protection of groundwater and water quality, water conservation and flood protection. Due to the lack of details staff is unable to advise Council of any impacts specific to Burnaby.



DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

WCS:jb  
Attach.

cc: Director Planning & Building Inspection  
Director Administrative & Community Services  
A/Chief Public Health Inspector

# Environment 2001

## SUSTAINING THE WATER RESOURCE WATER MANAGEMENT

The Water Management Program of B.C. Environment has developed a new water management strategy to sustain this key resource and to meet the changing needs of British Columbians.

There is a need to review and update policies and legislation. Water availability is constrained in some areas. Problems with water quality are becoming more prevalent. The impact of development projects on the province's water supply and quality is of growing concern. Native peoples have expressed specific concerns.

Other reasons for review include the need to review the Water Act provisions relating to groundwater, water quality, and water management planning. Policies relating to water pricing, conservation, water export, dam and dyke safety also require review.

*Sustaining the Water Resource* sets out the implications of sustainable development concepts for water management and seeks comments on proposed new directions in the following areas:

### 1. Water Export

\* The Minister of Environment initiated a review of water export policies in March 1991. A discussion paper will be prepared as part of this review and public comments will be encouraged.

### 2. Protecting Groundwater

\* Comprehensive management of groundwater in British Columbia would be undertaken to complement the management of surface water.

### 3. Water Management, Planning and Instream Uses

\* Comprehensive planning for the development and management of water resources would be encouraged.

\* Plans would be tailored to meet unique local needs.

\* Plans would need to be supported with effective implementation measures.

\* Improvements to the water licensing system would be provided.

\* Protection of instream flows and uses would continue to be an important consideration as part of the planning process.

### 4. Protecting Water Quality

\* An integrated approach to water quality control would be taken.

\* Continued emphasis would be placed on the development of water quality criteria and objectives for the whole province, and on state of environment reporting on water quality.

\* Public participation would be encouraged in creating water use designations in the course of setting water quality objectives.

\* Quality criteria and objectives would be followed closely—during implementation of water management plans and in all decision-making processes.

\* Monitoring and managing water quality would be undertaken, for all operations where pollution sources are widely dispersed.

\* Water quality would be taken into consideration when issuing water licenses.

#### 5. Water Pricing and Conservation

\* Water-pricing policies and regulations would more accurately reflect the economic, environmental and social values of the water resource.

\* Other methods to encourage water conservation would be developed and introduced.

\* Public education on the importance of conserving British Columbia's water would receive special support in the province's new water strategy.

#### 6. Flood Protection

\* Improved floodplain management would be carried out by local government.

\* The government would seek continued funding for dyking and bank protection.

\* The government would develop regulations on dam and dyke safety, during the stages of design, construction, maintenance and removal.

#### 7. The Institutional Context

\* Partnership is essential between all levels of government.

\* Additional opportunities would be provided for local government to become directly responsible for aspects of water management.

\* The public would have a greater role in decision-making and a heightened responsibility for protection of the water resource.

#### Public Comments

We are interested in your thoughts and comments on these proposed new directions of the Water Management Program. Copies of *Sustaining the Water Resource* can be obtained or meetings can be booked by calling 1-800-665-1001 between July 15 and September 30, 1991. Written comments should be sent to:

Executive Director  
Water Management Division  
B.C. Environment  
765 Broughton Street, 6th Floor  
Victoria, B.C.  
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