

TO: CITY MANAGER 1992 OCTOBER 21
FROM: ACTING DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING OUR FILE: 02.120.1

SUBJECT: NOMINATIONS FOR THE GVRD'S
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To provide Council with a recommendation regarding nominations for the GVRD's Agricultural Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council recommend Mr. Alan Wong of Kwong Lee Farms as a member for the GVRD's Agricultural Advisory Committee.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Gordon Campbell, Chairperson, Board of Directors, Greater Vancouver Regional District.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Council, on October 5, 1992, received correspondence from the G.V.R.D. requesting nominations to its Agricultural Advisory Committee. Appointments to the Committee will be drawn from a pool of persons who have a knowledge of agriculture and a commitment to its future.

Arising from consideration of the correspondence, Council requested staff to determine if there are persons within the agricultural community in Burnaby's Big Bend area who have an interest in being nominated.

2.0 EXISTING SITUATION

Pursuant to Council's request, an advertisement was placed in the Burnaby Now and the Burnaby News on October 14, 1992. Contact was also made with several persons active in the market garden industry.

As a result of the foregoing Mr. Alan Wong, of 6074 S.E. Marine Drive, has confirmed his interest in sitting on the Committee.

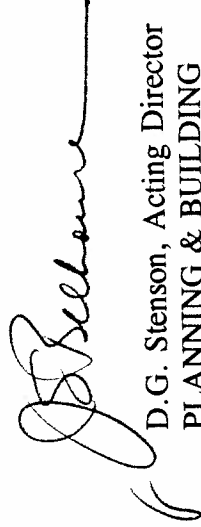
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Mr. Wong is a third generation farmer and is the Manager of Kwong Lee Farms which owns and cultivates 65 acres in Burnaby's Big Bend area and Cloverdale. He is also a member of the South Burnaby Farmland Owners' Committee which consists of representatives of 17 farms totalling 132 acres. These agricultural lands are highly productive and valued from an economical, environmental and cultural viewpoint. The Big Bend area farms currently produce the majority of the bunch vegetables for the Province, 20-30 percent of the Lower Mainland's celery, 80 percent of the spinach and 90 percent of the Chinese vegetables. The produce grown in this area represents approximately 10 percent of the total vegetable production for the Lower Mainland farming area.

Kwong Lee Farms is a 100 percent Canadian company producing its own goods as well as networking with affiliated farms. It also owns and operates the Burnaby Pressure Cooling Ltd. plant which provides state-of-the-art cooling for fresh vegetables. Essentially this facility pre-cools all products to extract field heat immediately after harvest, thereby maximizing shelf life and freshness. This plant is capable of pre-cooling 5,000 cases of products or 200,000 pounds of vegetables daily. This product is then shipped and marketed.

3.0 CONCLUSION

It is evident from the foregoing that Mr. Wong would admirably represent the Big Bend agricultural community. As the Manager of Kwong Lee Farms he is responsible for all aspects of the Market Garden Industry from initial seeding to final marketing.



D.G. Stenson, Acting Director
PLANNING & BUILDING