

ITEM Suppl. 7
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 44
COUNCIL MEETING 92/06/22

TO: ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER **DATE:** 1992 06 19
FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 42-01-08
SUBJECT: WATER CONSERVATION

PURPOSE: To provide Council with an update on necessary water conservation measures and to seek endorsement of a water reduction program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council endorse an immediate program to encourage citizens to curtail non-essential water uses.
2. THAT Council support the principle of a total ban on sprinkling if requested to do so by the GVRD.
3. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the GVRD.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

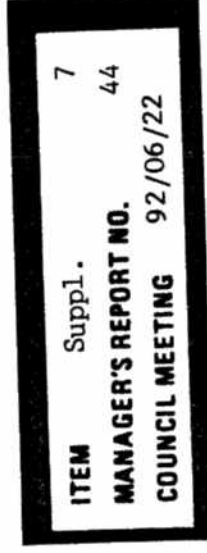
Appearing elsewhere on this agenda is a letter from the Greater Vancouver Water District seeking the Municipality's cooperation in curtailing non-essential municipal water uses. Subsequent to this correspondence, the GVWD Water Committee met on 1992 June 18 and adopted more stringent recommended measures for water conservation. This report is to update Council on the current status.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Lower Mainland member municipalities (including Burnaby) purchase and receive water from the GVWD. The GVWD has the authority to regulate the amount of water provided to municipalities however it is the Municipality which has the authority to regulate water service to individual consumers.

Burnaby has adopted a Waterworks Bylaw which empowers Council to reduce or discontinue water service if it is deemed to be in the public interest. The GVWD has advised us that watershed reservoir levels are considerably lower than normal as we head into the traditional dry season. This is primarily due to:

- mild Winter and low snowpack
- extended dry Spring period
- drawdown of Capilano Lake to effect dam repairs



3.0 GVWD ACTION

The GVWD Water Committee met on 1992 June 18, received a report on Water Reserves and adopted the following recommendations:

- Staff continue to implement the public awareness program and be authorized to expend up to \$50,000 if needed on advertising to encourage voluntary reduction in consumption by the general public and member municipalities; and
- The cooperation of all member municipalities be sought to support any further conservation methods including imposition of a total ban on sprinkling if requested by the Commission.
- Write to the Mayor and Council of each District member to apprise them of the need for immediate water conservation measures and to request their cooperation in achieving a minimum 10% reduction in water use until the present supply situation increases.

4.0 DISCUSSION

To date, Burnaby has never had the need to impose water restrictions. Several surrounding municipalities do regulate lawn sprinkling primarily by imposing the odd/even day requirement. This type of regulation can be effective in controlling peak demands where distribution is a problem. It is not necessarily effective in reducing overall demand (ie. where supply is a problem). We are currently experiencing a supply problem therefore it is necessary that we cooperate to reduce non-essential water uses which include lawn irrigation, car washing, driveway hosing, etc.

The GVWD are not suggesting a mandatory program be imposed at this time therefore curtailment would be on a voluntary basis. In order to be effective, however, an awareness program at the local level should be implemented.

We would propose implementing an immediate advisory campaign including:

- notification in local newspapers
- informational displays at all Municipal buildings
- staff advice when wastage is observed
- support of GVWD program

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff concur with the GVWD that the current water supply shortage necessitates a reduction in water use, therefore staff recommend that a voluntary program to curtail non-essential water use by our citizens be encouraged. Further, should the GVWD indicate that a mandatory ban on outdoor water uses is necessary, staff would recommend that Council support such a measure.


DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

WCS:jb
cc: Director Admin. & Community Services
Municipal Solicitor