

ITEM 1  
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 38  
COUNCIL MEETING 92/05/25

TO: ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1992 May 19  
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING Our File: 01.224.2  
SUBJECT: FRASER BASIN MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT  
PURPOSE: To provide Council with information on the Fraser Basin Management Agreement.

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council authorize signing of the Fraser Basin Management Agreement to enable the participation of the Municipality of Burnaby in the Program.
2. THAT a Member of Council be designated as Burnaby's representative to the Local Government Steering Committee.
3. THAT the decision to continue participation within the Program beyond 1993 be the basis of a Council report in 1993 April.
4. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr. Richard Taylor, Executive Director, Union of B.C. Municipalities.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Council agenda of 1992 April 13 included a memo and information package concerning the Fraser Basin Management Agreement and a request that the municipality become a signator of the agreement. The materials received by Council were prepared by the Fraser Communities and Regions in association with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities in response to growing concern about the environmental health of the Fraser River from its headwaters to its mouth. The federal government's Green Plan includes a commitment to invest \$100 million in the Fraser River Management Plan for improving the quality of the Fraser River over six years. The Fraser Basin Management Agreement is an opportunity for local governments to enter into an agreement with the federal and provincial governments to participate in the development and implementation of the Fraser River Management Program.

This report responds to Council's request for information on the Fraser Basin Management Agreement.



## 2.0 FRASER BASIN MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

The Fraser Basin Management Agreement is a mechanism for involving all levels of government (municipal, regional districts, provincial, federal) in the Fraser Basin in the environmental management of the watershed through a Fraser Basin Management Program. The agreement recognizes that effective solutions to environmental problems in the Fraser River require proactive responses that are planned and coordinated for the entire watershed. Thus the agreement will provide a way for local governments within the watershed to participate on a cooperative basis in environmental management and planning for sustainable development in the watershed.

To quote the Fraser Basin Communities and Regions:

"The Fraser Basin Management Program will provide direction on:

- o coordination and integration of activities related to the restoration, enhancement and management of the natural resources and ecosystems of the Fraser Basin;
- o integrated management and decision-making processes;
- o integration of current practices and new processes into a management system for the Fraser Basin;
- o monitoring and reporting on the state of the Fraser River; and
- o involving the public in a consistent and meaningful manner."

By involving all jurisdictions in the Fraser River watershed, the Agreement will set-up a collaborative approach for addressing environmental problems in manner that is responsive to ecological and watershed boundaries rather than political boundaries. Coordination is to occur with the initiatives underway that are associated with the Fraser River Estuary Management Program and the Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Plan Program.

## 3.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT STEERING COMMITTEE AND MANAGEMENT BOARD

Each signator of the Agreement is entitled to appoint one representative to the Local Government Steering Committee. This Committee will select a chairperson and three representatives to the Management Board. The Management Board will have a maximum of 19 members including three members from each of local government, British Columbia, and Canada. Additional members of the Management Board will include representatives from Aboriginal organizations, industry, labour, and non-government environmental organizations from throughout the Fraser River watershed.

The first meeting of the Steering Committee is tentatively scheduled for the September 1992 UBCM convention.

#### 4.0 COSTS

Signators of the Agreement will agree to a cost-sharing formula to support administrative costs related to the participation of local governments in the Fraser River Management Program. The Governments of Canada and British Columbia will contribute equal portions of the first \$400,000 of annual costs. Local governments will contribute on the following per capita basis:

- o first fiscal year (1992), \$0.00 per capita;
- o second fiscal year (1993), \$0.05 per capita;
- o third and subsequent years (1994-96), \$0.10 capita.

The per capita allocations are calculated using population data obtained from the 1991 Census of Canada data. The population figure for Burnaby is 158,858. Based on this figure, a \$0.05 per capita allocation results in a cost of \$7,942.90, and a \$0.10 per capita allocation results in a cost of \$15,885.80.

The annual costs are specifically related to administrative tasks including a Fraser Basin office, regional/information offices, a program director and support staff. Specific project costs are not included.

#### 5.0 ENTERING INTO/TERMINATING THE AGREEMENT

Local governments may enter into the Agreement by passing a resolution. The Program is deemed to be in effect as soon as the Federal and Provincial Governments execute along with two participating local governments.

The Agreement will be in force for 5 years from the time the last party signs. A signator may terminate its involvement in the Agreement by notifying other parties of its intention to withdraw at least one year prior to the intended withdrawal date.

#### 6.0 SUMMARY

The health of the Fraser River is vitally important to the Province, the Region and Burnaby. Amongst its many functions it serves as a migration route for an average of four million salmon annually, represented by seven different species. It is North America's most important salmon producing river system. The Federal Government Green Plan includes a commitment of \$100 million to improve the quality of the Fraser River over six years. Staff believe that the Fraser Basin Management Program is a noteworthy initiative which will complement Burnaby's other initiatives on the Fraser such as the GVRD Green Zone report, the Fraser River Estuary Management Program, our Environmentally Sensitive Areas Study and the implementation of our Big Bend Development Plan.

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As such, the Fraser Basin Management Agreement represents an innovative opportunity for Burnaby to participate in a collaborative environmental initiative that focuses on addressing environmental concerns in an ecological context instead of the more traditional jurisdictional context.

Agreement to participate in the Program would commit the Municipality to a cost of \$7,942.90 for 1993 in recognition of the one year prior notification required to withdraw. The decision to remain a participant during the third and subsequent years (1994-96) could be made at the end of the first year after determination of the benefits and worth of the Municipality's involvement.

*AWP*  
SG/mm

*J. Bellare*  
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A.L. Parr, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

cc: Municipal Solicitor  
Director Engineering  
Acting Chief Public Health Inspector  
Director Recreational and Cultural Services  
Director Finance