

Re: LETTER FROM MR. & MRS. KING REGARDING BILLING FOR WATER AND SEWER CHARGES, SPRINKLER REGULATIONS AND A TREE PROTECTION BYLAW

RECOMMENDATION: THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. & Mrs. King.

PURPOSE: To provide Council with replies on comments as expressed by Mr. and Mrs. King in their letter to Council.

### R E P O R T

Appearing on the agenda for the 1992 March 29 Council meeting is a letter from Mr. and Mrs. King regarding their views on water and sewer charges, sprinkling regulations and a proposal that is under review for the protection of trees. Following are replies from staff on each of these three subjects:

1. Separate Billing for Water & Sewer Charges  
Director Finance

Council, on 1992 December 14, approved separate billing for water and sewer charges beginning in March, 1994.

Separate billing will spread the annual burden of a single tax payment over two bills. The initiative will reduce the impact of one large tax bill and will provide the City with a more even revenue stream.

In addition, Council approved the establishment of a tax prepayment plan to provide more flexible alternatives for tax payment throughout the year. The prepayment plan will provide for blended payments of water and sewer charges and property taxes. Prepayments for 1994 will commence in August, 1993.

A copy of the report that Council received on 1992 December 14 (Item 3, Report No. 76) will be sent to Mr. and Mrs. King.

2. Sprinkling Regulations  
Director Engineering

In June 1992, an unprecedented region-wide total ban on lawn sprinkling was imposed which continued until early September. The need of taking such severe measures was due primarily to low snowpack and high water consumption. Research conducted by the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) indicated that lawn sprinkling accounts for approximately 30 to 40 percent of water consumption in the summer.

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The GVWD has an ongoing program to monitor the watershed snowpack levels and the latest information revealed that the current snowpack reading is approximately 50 to 60 percent of the average level for the same period in prior years. The GVWD is continuing with its monitoring program and will advise the member municipalities of the situation accordingly.

The 1992 water shortage experience combined with the long term regional goal of conserving water supply has led the Water District and its member municipalities to review the Water Shortage Response Plan and to develop new strategies for implementation in 1993. This review resulted in the development of the 1993 Water Conservation Program. This Program consists of 4 stages designed to reduce outdoor water uses. The proposed program includes advisory messages to the public on water conservation tips and progressive sprinkling restrictions that will come into effect at the end of May, 1993. The main objective of the proposed program is to promote water conservation early in the season so that the need of having to impose severe measures such as the total sprinkling ban can be minimized. More details on the Water Conservation Program, sprinkling restrictions and Burnaby's implementation plan will be presented in a separate report to Council in early April, 1993.

With respect to metering of water service connection for single family residential houses, it has been found that in cities where the water resource is scarce, universal metering of water connections is an effective way of encouraging water conservation. The City of Vancouver currently is undertaking a pilot project on universal metering for the purpose of water conservation. Results of the study would enable municipalities within the Greater Vancouver area to further evaluate the feasibility and advisability of universal metering. Staff will keep Council informed of the progress and findings of the study and its possible application in Burnaby.

3. Sprinkling Regulations  
Director Recreation and Cultural Services

Golf Courses

At the Burnaby Mountain Golf Course, staff have always used storm water that was collected in the "lagoon" for the sprinkler system at the golf course. GVWD water is only used as a supplementary source. A new automatic irrigation system is being installed and it will maximize the efficiency of water use from the "lagoon".

At the Riverway Golf Course, new grass was established in 1992 and intermittent watering had to be carried out on the greens, tees and fairways in that year. However, in 1993 the automatic sprinklers will be set for late evening and night use only. Staff are aware of the need to conserve water and because of this concern are investigating the possible use of either well or Fraser River water for the sprinkler system at the Riverway Golf Course.

### Playing Fields

The playing fields, until ten years ago, were irrigated by portable sprinklers. The sprinklers had to be turned on during the day when staff were on duty and this was an inefficient use of water. However, since that time, the Parks Department has installed automatic sprinkler systems to many of its turf sportsfields and only uses these systems during evening and night hours.

In the summer of 1992, effective sprinkling of the playing fields was made possible through the use of automatic sprinklers. The extent of sprinkling was restricted to an absolute minimum to prevent loss of turf.

### Swimming Pools

Water in the indoor and outdoor swimming pools is recycled. The outdoor wading pools were not used during the water ban in 1992 because they require daily refilling.

The spray pools were switched to manual control during the water ban in 1992. Therefore the water spray came on for short intervals and only when a child activated the switch.

#### 4. Tree Protection Bylaw Acting Director Planning & Building

This matter was the subject of a report which Council received on 1993 March 22 (Item 25, Report No. 17). That report advised that:

In July 1992, the Provincial Government adopted Bill 77 which amended the Municipal Act to enable all municipalities to pass local tree protection bylaws if they so choose. To obtain public input on a tree protection bylaw for Burnaby, an article on the legislation and a questionnaire was included in the 1993 February issue of the Information Burnaby Newsletter.

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The deadline for submission of the questionnaire was 1993 March 05. To date, 1026 questionnaires and 15 letters without a questionnaire have been received. Staff are currently in the process of coding the results. A preliminary count indicates that about 73 percent of the respondents are in favour of having a tree protection bylaw.

A detailed report on the survey findings will be submitted to Council in about late April. The findings will be useful in evaluating potential alternatives for addressing the bylaw. Other factors will also be taken into consideration including the costs of administering and enforcing a tree protection bylaw, the impact on property owners, developers, and the community at large, and the experience of other municipalities which have adopted a tree bylaw.

After analysis of the survey results and the implications of a tree protection bylaw, staff will be recommending a direction in relation to the drafting of a tree protection bylaw and an associated public review process.

Staff will ensure that Mr. and Mrs. King's comments are included for consideration in the public review process.

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c.c. Director Finance  
Director Engineering  
Director Recreation and Cultural Services  
Acting Director Planning & Building