

ITEM	1
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	21
COUNCIL MEETING	93/04/05

TO: CITY MANAGER

DATE: 1993 03 30

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 42-01-08

SUBJECT: 1993 WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

PURPOSE: To provide Council with the detail of the 1993 Water Shortage Response Plan and to seek Council's endorsement of the plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council endorse the 1993 Water Shortage Response Plan as outlined in this report; and
2. THAT Council authorize the Director Engineering to implement the Water Shortage Response Plan and the progressive sprinkling restrictions as described, in consultation with the Mayor and the GVWD.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

In June, 1992, a region wide total ban on lawn sprinkling was imposed by the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) which extended to include all member municipalities within the Regional District and continued until early September, 1993. The need of imposing the ban was due primarily to low snowpack and the prolonged dry Spring period.

The 1992 water shortage problem and sprinkling ban has prompted the GVWD and its member municipalities to review the water conservation strategy to ensure that, in the future, adequate water supply is retained in the reservoirs for essential uses. Recent information released by the GVWD indicated that the current snowpack levels in the watersheds are approximately 50 percent below the average level for the same period in prior years. Arising from the review, the GVWD has developed the 1993 Water Shortage Response Plan, in consultation with the member municipalities and the Nurseries Association. The plan was submitted to the GVRD Administration Board and was subsequently approved by the Board in its deliberations. The objective of the proposed program is to conserve water and to promote conservation early in the season so that severe water restriction measures such as the sprinkling ban of 1992 can be minimized.

The purpose of this report is to present the details of the 1993 Water Shortage Response Plan and seek Council's endorsement of the plan and its implementation in Burnaby.

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2.0 COUNCIL POLICY

Under the Burnaby Waterworks Bylaw, Council has the authority to reduce or discontinue water service if it is deemed to be in the public interest. In June, 1992, Council also endorsed a staff recommendation to impose a total sprinkling ban and authorized staff to implement the regulations accordingly.

3.0 1993 WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

The 1993 Water Shortage Response Plan consists of 4 stages of implementation with the objective to reduce outdoor water uses and to conserve the water supply. It is intended that the plan be used as the standard model by all municipalities within the Regional District to achieve uniform compliance and full cooperation. The plan is outlined as follows:

Stage I

Implementation Date: Early April, 1993

Program Detail:

The GVWD would initiate a series of advisory messages to the public on water conservation tips and lawn watering guidelines. A pamphlet outlining water saving measures would be produced and distributed to garden centers, libraries and the public. A water conservation "hotline" would also be established and maintained by the GVWD for public enquiries.

Through Information Burnaby and other local news media, Burnaby would also promote local water conservation measures and keep Burnaby residents informed of the scheduled implementation date of the Stage II program.

Stage II

Implementation Date: May 29, 1993

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Program Detail:

Limited lawn sprinkling restrictions for manual and automatic in-ground sprinklers would come into effect as follows:

Even Numbered Addresses - Saturday & Wednesday
Odd Numbered Addresses - Sunday & Thursday
Between the hours of 4:00am to 9:00am & 7:00pm to 10:00pm only.

The GVWD would continue to monitor the water supply situation on a daily basis to determine if the water restrictions could be relaxed or should be escalated to more severe measures (Stage III).

Stage III

Implementation Date: As Required

Program Detail:

Lawn sprinkling would be limited to once per week and weekend sprinkling would not be permitted. This stage would be implemented when reduction of 15 to 25 percent of the water consumption is required.

Hosing down of outdoor surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks would not be allowed unless required for public health or commercial reasons.

Stage IV

Implementation Date: As Required

Program Detail:

A total sprinkling ban would be imposed at this stage if the water supply condition continues to deteriorate and a total water consumption reduction of more than 30 percent is necessary to conserve the depleting water supply. Water parks and wading pools would be permitted to operate only when the weather is sunny and over 20°C. Nurseries, turf growers and professional landscapers would be permitted on specific water uses in order to keep plant stock and turf alive.

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The four-stage Water Shortage Response Plan would serve as the basic framework for the water conservation program in the summer of 1993. Details are being prepared by the GVWD and the member municipalities on the compliance program and the permitting system that would allow exemption for special cases. All municipalities would be provided with weekly updates on the water supply situation and advised of the conservation measures necessary to achieve uniform compliance within the Regional District.

As part of the water conservation program, sprinkling of golf courses and playing fields would be reduced to the extent necessary to prevent loss of turf.

4.0 CONCLUSION

An unprecedented region wide total sprinkling ban was imposed in the summer of 1992 due primarily to low snowpack and high water consumption. The GVWD reported that lawn sprinkling accounts for 30-40 percent of water consumption in the summer time.

To conserve the water supply and to minimize the need of imposing such severe measures as the total ban, the 1993 Water Shortage Response Plan was developed by the GVWD, in consultation with member municipalities, Nurseries Association and landscapers. The plan is to promote water conservation early in the season with progressive sprinkling restriction if conditions warrant.

Staff have worked closely with the GVWD in developing the 1993 Water Shortage Response Plan and would recommend that Council endorse the plan in principle and authorize the Director Engineering, in consultation with the Mayor and the GVWD to implement the Plan and the prescribed progressive sprinkling restrictions if and when required.


DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

LSC:mp

- cc: Director Administrative & Community Services
- Director Finance
- Director Recreation & Cultural Services
- City Solicitor