

TO: CITY MANAGER

1994 FEBRUARY 16

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

OUR FILE: 11.700

SUBJECT: **CUTTING OF TREES IN BURNABY
MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA BY SFU**

PURPOSE: To provide additional information about the removal of trees from the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area by Simon Fraser University.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Simon Fraser University be requested to review its landscape policy to ensure that:
 - a) trees within the conservation area are not removed or topped for view purposes.
 - b) the conservation area be managed in a manner that maintains and improves the health of the natural resource.
2. **THAT** the University be requested to consult with the City prior to the proposed removal of any trees within the conservation area.
3. **THAT** copies of this report be sent to Mr. Steve Mancinelli, Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society, 5610 E. Georgia Street, Burnaby, B. C. V5B 1V6 and Mr. J. Stubbs, President, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B. C. V5A 1S6.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

At its regular meeting of 1994 February 14, Council received a letter dated 1994 February 01 from Mr. Steve Mancinelli, secretary of the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society (BMPS). The letter concerned Simon Fraser University's clearing of some forest to the north of the Shell gas station in the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. This report provides more information on the tree removal. At its meeting of 1994 February 14, Council referred the letter to the Burnaby/SFU Liaison Committee.

2.0 TREE REMOVAL

Staff have visited the site and have spoken with Mr. J. Richard Johnson, Director, Facilities Management, Simon Fraser University, regarding the tree removal. Alder trees were removed from the north side of the fill slope on which the Shell service station and a long established viewpoint are located (see **Attachment #1**). The cleared area is approximately 150 ft. x 100 ft. and confined to the fill slope. Mr. Johnson indicated that the tree removal was done in accordance with the University's landscape policy to open up the view for the University community.

ITEM	12
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	10
COUNCIL MEETING	94/02/21

According to Mr. Johnson, Simon Fraser University's landscape policy, as outlined in the University's 1963 September development plan, focuses on preservation of natural vegetation and the maintenance of selected "view windows" through the thinning of alders. University policy is to not cut conifers. As such, the University is of the opinion that the tree removal in question was in accordance with their policy.

During their visit to Simon Fraser University, staff noticed that many large, 4-5 metre tall coniferous and deciduous trees have recently been planted along the ring road on the south side of the campus. The University has advised that many of these trees have been transplanted from other areas of the University where University development has necessitated tree removal.

3.0 REGULATION OF TREE REMOVAL

Council has directed staff to draft a tree protection bylaw to address tree removal on private property. However, until a bylaw is drafted, taken to public information meetings, public hearing and adopted by Council, the City's ability to influence tree removal on private property is limited. Under the current circumstances, the City was not consulted about the removal or replacement of trees from University property.

It should be noted that the City's adopted Tree Management Policy for City lands explicitly excludes removal of trees or 'topping' for view purposes. Given the ecological importance of trees in the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area, and the changing community and environmental values since the University's landscape policy was prepared in 1963, it is recommended that the University be requested to review its landscape policy to ensure that trees within the conservation area are not removed or topped for view purposes and that the conservation area be managed in a manner that maintains and improves the health of the natural resource. It is further recommended that the University be requested to consult with the City prior to the proposed removal of any trees in the conservation area in the future.

B. R. Stenson

for D. G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

D.

SG:BLS\db

Attach. - 1

cc. Director Administrative & Community Services
Director Recreation & Cultural Services
City Solicitor

Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area

- Conservation boundary
- S.F.U. properties
- Municipal properties
- Federal properties



0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5
Kilometers

ATTACHMENT 1

ITEM

12

MANAGER'S REPORT NO.

10

COUNCIL MEETING

94/02/21



