

TO: CITY MANAGER

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: WESTRIDGE RAVINE - BETWEEN SHELL CANADA AND CLIFF AVENUE

PURPOSE: To respond to correspondence by Mr. Stephen Mancinelli requesting information on the status and plans of the ravine.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr. Stephen Mancinelli at 5610 Georgia St. East, Burnaby, B.C., V5B 1V6 and to Mr. Dave Peters, Shell Canada Ltd, 201 Kensington, Burnaby, B.C. V5B 4B2.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 1995 May 1, Council received correspondence from Mr. Stephen Mancinelli concerning a ravine on Shell Canada property, west of Cliff Avenue and north of Hastings St. The letter described the ravine as containing significant natural and recreational attributes and requests information regarding future plans for the ravine. Mr. Mancinelli also indicated there was garbage in the ravine. This report responds to Mr. Mancinelli's request for information.

2.0 SITE ASSESSMENT

As indicated in *Attachment 1*, most of the ravine is located on property owned by Shell Canada. A portion of the subject site is City of Burnaby parkland and is located east of the ravine and adjacent to the Cliff Avenue right-of-way. Westridge Park is situated at the south end of the ravine adjacent to Inlet Drive. There is a trail west of Cliff Avenue within the City park property following along the top of the ravine, as well as informal trails that extend into the ravine.

The ravine contains a dense, second growth forest dominated by Big Leaf Maple, Red Alder and Western Hemlock. Significant large Hemlock and snags (dead trees which provide important wildlife habitat) were observed within the ravine. The forest understorey consists mainly of Salmonberry, Red Elder and Sword Fern. Skunk Cabbage is found in moist areas at the bottom of the ravine.

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The creek at the bottom of the ravine is unnamed and not known to be fish bearing. The lower reach of the creek is culverted beneath developed areas containing tanks on Shell's property.

The ravine appears to be valuable wildlife habitat. A variety of wildlife and signs of wildlife were observed including perching birds, birds of prey (i.e. eagles), herons, a garter snake and deer during the site reconnaissance. A highly significant area for nesting herons was observed within the ravine within property owned by Shell Canada.

From our review of this ravine area, it is apparent that it is an ecologically important resource to the neighbourhood and the City as a whole. This is an example of an area where an opportunity exists to exercise continued vigilance to ensure that this ravine continues to be protected as surrounding urban development continues in the community.

3.0 FUTURE PLANS

Staff contacted Shell Canada to determine its future plans for the use of the ravine area. Shell advised that the subject area is crossed by a pipeline that feeds the operating refinery. Apart from that use, there are no plans to develop the ravine area itself as it is viewed by the company as an important green belt area providing a buffer to the surrounding community. Should there be any change in the status of the Shell Canada properties in the future, the City should consider the addition of this ravine area into its green space inventory.

Shell Canada indicated that there are security and liability concerns with the operation of the refinery. As such, Shell does have security fencing in the area. The company indicated that it was not aware of any garbage in the ravine, but will be doing an inspection of the area. During its site visit, staff did observe some dumped materials at the rear of some businesses fronting on Hastings Street that appeared to be on both City and Shell lands. Staff have initiated actions to have this attended to.

Council recently adopted 10 principles that would apply to the planning and management of the City's Green Zone lands. Given the environmental attributes of the ravine, it is the intention of staff to forward a copy of the principles to Shell for them to consider voluntarily utilizing them in the management of the ravine.

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B. R. Stenson

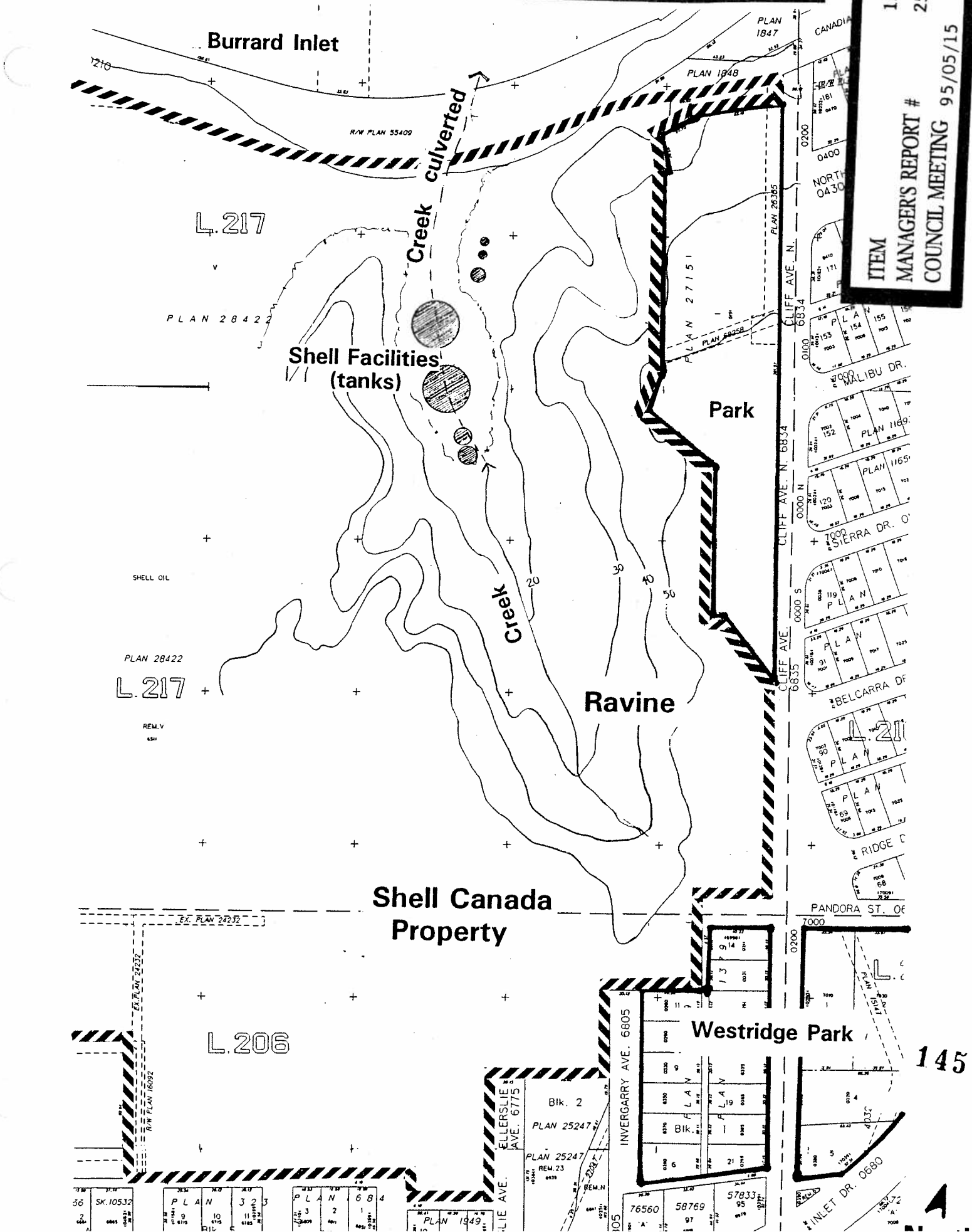
B. R. D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

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Attachment

cc: Director Recreation and Cultural Services
Director Engineering
Chief Public Health Inspector

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