

TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 1995 DECEMBER 13

FROM: EMERGENCY PLANNING COORDINATOR

SUBJECT: REGIONAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE

PURPOSE: To apprise Council of a request from the City of Vancouver for Burnaby to become involved in a centre for the regional coordination of responses to major emergencies.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** approval be given for Burnaby to become a participating partner in the Regional Emergency Coordination Centre subject to the understanding that:
 - a) the one-time \$75,000 (estimate) capital cost be paid to the City of Vancouver in one sum in early 1997; and
 - b) the ongoing annual operating cost be paid to the City of Vancouver commencing in 1998; and
 - c) a further report be submitted to Council if in staff's opinion there is not sufficient participation by other municipalities and organizations to make the Centre functionally viable.

REPORT

The City of Vancouver is considering the construction of a Regional Emergency Coordination Centre (RECC). The preliminary design has advanced to a point where Vancouver is now requesting if municipalities and other organizations are interested in acquiring space in this facility which, when constructed to post-disaster standards, would enhance the effectiveness of a response to a major emergency such as an earthquake. The capital cost for each participating organization \$75,000 (estimate) is payable in one single amount in early 1997; if desired this cost can be annualized to a maximum of \$14,000 per year over 20 years to include both operating cost and replacement of equipment. The Director Finance recommends the former alternative as being more advantageous to Burnaby. The on-going annual operating cost is currently estimated to be \$1,100.

Appearing on this week's Agenda is a letter on this matter to Mayor William Copeland from Mayor Philip Owen. Documents that more comprehensively explain the proposed

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RECC and related costs are being forwarded to Council under separate cover with this week's Agenda. Council is requested to obtain additional details regarding this project from these documents. Copies are available for the public and media in the City Clerk's Department.

The success of the RECC largely depends on how many organizations would actually be present in the Centre to coordinate a response to a major emergency. To be viable and effective, all or virtually all of the municipalities in the GVRD need to participate. Viability also requires the participation of a number of other organizations such as the senior levels of government, utilities, hospital and ambulance services et al. In staff's view it would be significantly beneficial for Burnaby to participate in this project if a sufficient number of other organizations do so as well.

This proposal has been carefully reviewed and a conclusion reached that significant benefits would be realized if municipalities and other organizations could collectively coordinate unified responses to major emergencies from a Regional Emergency Coordination Centre. Council's approval is therefore requested for Burnaby to participate in this project subject to the conditions as noted in the above recommendation.


Emergency Planning Coordinator

cc: Director Finance
Major Emergency Planning Committee