

TO: CITY MANAGER 1996 NOVEMBER 06
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 11.160.1
SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
1997/98 B.C. HYDRO BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM
PURPOSE: To outline the status of Burnaby's application to B.C. Hydro for underground wiring assistance and to seek Council authorization for the City share of costs for the proposed project on Government Street (Halston Court/Cardston Court).

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council bring down a bylaw to appropriate \$189,000 from Capital Reserves to fund the City's share of costs to remove overhead lines on Government Street (Halston Court/Cardston Court).

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

On 1996 September 23, Council authorized staff to apply to the 1997/98 B.C. Hydro Beautification Program for one-third (1/3) cost-sharing assistance for the removal of overhead power lines at various locations in Burnaby.

B.C. Hydro has provided the following preliminary cost estimates for Burnaby's projects:

1. Government Street (Halston/Cardston)	\$500,000
2. Willingdon Avenue (Hastings to Eton)	728,000
3. Hastings Street Lane (north of 4100 block)	137,000
4. Bennett Street (Nelson to Marlborough)	210,000
5. Nelson Avenue (Jubilee to Imperial)	142,000

B.C. Hydro requires that funding for the City's two-thirds (2/3) share of project costs be confirmed by Council at this time in order that Burnaby's projects can be submitted to B.C. Hydro's Board of Directors in 1997 January for approval of cost-sharing under the terms of the Beautification Program. If Burnaby is successful in this application, the work would be required to commence by 1998 March 31.

2.0 PROPOSED PROJECT

While all five projects outlined have merit as desirable beautification projects, it is recognized that the total cost is prohibitive unless phased over a number of years in conjunction with the City's overall Capital spending priorities. Therefore, it is proposed that the Government Street project be pursued on a phased basis as a priority for the 1997/98 Program. The initial phase of this project was approved in last year's Program and is currently being implemented by B.C. Hydro. The proposed project for 1997/98 would extend this work a further 210 metres along the Cardston Court/Halston Court corridor. Staff have discussed this approach with B.C. Hydro staff who have indicated that our application can be considered on this basis. A similar phased approach was successfully applied in past years to remove overhead wires on Patterson Avenue in Metrotown.

3.0 PROJECT COSTS

Project costs and City of Burnaby funds required for the proposed project are outlined below based on preliminary estimates:

Estimated undergrounding costs	\$240,000
B.C. Hydro contribution (1/3 total)	80,000
City of Burnaby contribution (2/3 total)	\$ 160,000
Add: 10% contingency	16,000
7% GST	12,320
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City of Burnaby Funding Required	\$ 188,320
Net Cost (after 4% GST rebate)	\$ 181,280

4.0 FINANCING

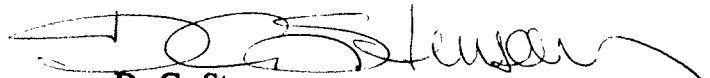
Sufficient Capital Reserves are available and, with Council approval, \$182,000 will be included in the 1998 Land Assembly and Development component of the 1997-2001 Capital Provisional Program.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The removal of overhead utility lines is considered to be a desirable and worthwhile endeavour for the City of Burnaby to pursue jointly with B.C. Hydro through the B.C. Hydro Beautification Program.

It is proposed that a continuation of the underground wiring project on Government Street (Halston Court/Cardston Court) be given priority in Burnaby's current application to B.C. Hydro.

Therefore, it is recommended that Council bring down a bylaw to appropriate \$189,000 from Capital Reserves to fund the City's share of costs to remove overhead lines as outlined in this report.



D. G. Stenson
Director Planning and Building

KR:lf

cc: Director Engineering
Director Finance

