

ITEM	07
MANAGER'S REPORT #	04
COUNCIL MEETING	96/02/05

TO: CITY MANAGER 1996 JANUARY 31

FROM: CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

SUBJECT: SILT DISCHARGE INTO EAGLE CREEK FROM HASTINGS/
GAGLARDI CONNECTOR PROJECT

PURPOSE: TO INFORM COUNCIL ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY STAFF IN RESPONSE
TO COMPLAINTS OF SILT DISCHARGE INTO EAGLE CREEK FROM
HASTINGS/GAGLARDI CONNECTOR PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At the regular Council Meeting on 1996 January 22, Council adopted a motion directing staff to prepare a report on the article appearing in the Sunday, 1996 January 21, edition of Burnaby Now newspaper regarding discharge of silt into Eagle Creek and in particular addressing the claim that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) was not advised of the siltation problem.

The following report responds to the noted motion.

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2.0 THE HASTINGS/GAGLARDI CONNECTOR PROJECT

As a component of obtaining the approval from Burnaby Council for a licence for Construction Access, the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Highways (MOTH) was advised of Council's resolution (1995 March 13) of MOTH responsibility to include appropriate measures to control surface run-off from the construction area. This requirement was included in the MOTH contract documents associated with the Hastings/Gaglardi Connector as a contractor responsibility.

The MOTH contract document titled "Project No. 08728-0001 Barnet/Hastings Hastings/Gaglardi Connector Clearing and Grubbing" clearly states the following:

"1.7 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS

The Contractor shall construct ditches, geotextile silt fences or any other facility necessary to prevent silt and other deleterious materials from entering Burrard Inlet and other water courses.

The Contractor shall submit a detailed scheme of such facilities for the approval of the Ministry Representative. This scheme shall be submitted at least three days prior to commencing work in proximity with any drainage course and will show, at a minimum, the facilities to be constructed and the methods to be employed to prevent silt and other deleterious materials from entering the stream. The Contractor shall have filter cloth and silt fencing available on site and ready to use, on an as required basis."

"1.9 DISPOSAL AND STOCKPILE SITES

The Contractor shall ensure that the disposal sites are acceptable to all agencies having an environmental interest, including, but not limited to, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, the Ministry of Forests, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada."

3.0 STAFF RESPONSE TO DISCHARGE OF SILT INTO EAGLE CREEK

Environmental Health Services received the first complaint regarding discoloured water in Eagle Creek on 1995 November 15. In accordance with the standard response protocol, staff in addition to undertaking their own investigation also informed the DFO of the complaint.

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Staff investigation identified the source of the silt discharge to have originated from the Hastings/Gaglardi Connector project. Specifically, the clearing and excavation work at the intersection of Curtis Street and Centennial Way had left a large area of exposed soils without any silt control measures. Officials of the Hastings/Gaglardi Connector project were notified of the noted concerns. A letter was also sent to Mr. Tom Tasaka, Project Director, Barnet Hastings Project, outlining recommended measures that should be undertaken to mitigate further silt discharge. Copies of the letter were also forwarded to the DFO and the B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (BCMOELP).

Staff conducted a follow-up inspection on 1995 December 06 and noted the creek water to be silted. As such, creek water samples and photographs of the area were obtained for legal purposes. Staff also informed the DFO and the BCMOELP of the concerns that were identified, and also discussed them with the MOTH official and their Project Director.

Environmental Health Services received a second complaint regarding discoloured water in Eagle Creek on 1995 December 08. However, the complainant also indicated at the time of the call that the water in the creek was now running clear.

On 1995 December 12, staff received a letter from Mr. Tom Tasaka, Project Director, stating that they had retained the services of Coast River Environmental Services Ltd. to advise the contractor on actions that are to be undertaken to mitigate silt discharge to Eagle Creek and to closely monitor the creek throughout the construction period. A subsequent letter of 1995 December 19 from Mr. Tom Tasaka stated that most of the recommendations made by their consultant were already implemented with the remaining work to be completed prior to their Christmas shutdown.

On 1996 January 09, due to noticeable discolouration in Eagle Creek, staff contacted DFO. A Fishery Official responded to the call and took samples of the water. It was determined that silt discharge had occurred during placement of a culvert earlier in the day.

Staff also provided the Fishery Official with photographs, lab test results and a synopsis of events regarding previous discharges to Eagle Creek.

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On 1996 January 15, Engineering Department received a call concerning flooding at a culvert on Glen Abbey Drive. Responding to the call, Engineering staff undertook emergency measures by removing silt from Eagle Creek in order to prevent potential flooding of private properties downstream.

As a result of heavy rainfall in the early part of January, Coast River Environmental Services Ltd. recommended additional silt control work to be undertaken which was completed during the weekend of 1996 January 21.

On 1996 January 26, staff met with officials from the DFO, MOTH and the contractor and identified additional silt control measures to be implemented immediately.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Through a Council resolution, the MOTH had been advised of their responsibility to include appropriate measures to control surface run-off from the construction area of the Hastings/Gaglardi Connector project.

Environmental Health Services, upon receiving complaints of discoloured water in Eagle Creek, immediately undertook their own investigations as well as notifying and meeting with officials from the DFO on a number of occasions to discuss silt discharge into Eagle Creek and identified concerns.

Furthermore, as action against a Provincial Government Ministry in these circumstances would probably be the responsibility of the DFO, staff have provided evidence and documentations that have been collected to the DFO for their consideration.


for T. Shum
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

DD/TS/js

- cc: () Deputy City Manager
Corporate Labour Relations
() Director Planning and Building
() Director Engineering
() Medical Health Officer
() City Solicitor