

TO: CITY MANAGER

1998 March 30

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: **APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE  
1999/2000 B.C. HYDRO BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM**

PURPOSE: To outline proposed underground wiring projects for submission to B.C. Hydro for cost sharing in the 1999/2000 Beautification Program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** staff be authorized to apply to B.C. Hydro for cost sharing assistance in removing the overhead lines described in Section 2.0 of this report.

**R E P O R T**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

For a numbers of years, Burnaby has been pursuing an incremental program to remove overhead power lines from our primary urban areas. Participation in the B.C. Hydro Beautification Program on a regular basis has provided one-third cost sharing for various such underground wiring projects. For example, funding assistance has been received to underground the overhead lines on Patterson Avenue adjacent Central Park and wires are presently being undergrounded along the former Government Street right-of-way in the Lougheed Town Centre area. Historically, the B.C. Hydro Beautification Program application process has begun with Hydro sending Burnaby a letter requesting submissions for consideration for the Beautification program. After receiving Burnaby's submission, B.C. Hydro prepares a "ballpark" estimate of the costs and advises the City to respond in writing indicating that Burnaby has the available funds to cover 2/3 of the estimated project cost. Burnaby usually provides this response by mid-November and B.C. Hydro advises the City in January whether the project has been approved or rejected.

Since approving the 1998/1999 Beautification project on Government Street, B.C. Hydro has asked Burnaby to apply earlier in the year for funding assistance because of their budgeting time frame. In keeping with B.C. Hydro's budgeting process, staff are requesting authorization to begin the application procedure at this time for the 1999/2000 B.C. Hydro Beautification Program.

**2.0 1999/2000 BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM APPLICATION**

For the 1999/2000 Program, staff propose to submit an application to B.C. Hydro for the following projects:

1. Willingdon Avenue (from the lane north of Hastings Street to Penzance Drive) adjacent Confederation Park and the Eileen Dailly Leisure Pool. The total cost of this project is prohibitive unless phased over a number of years. The first phase would be approximately from the lane north of Hastings Street to the lane between Pandora Street and Triumph Street, adjacent Eileen Dailly Leisure Pool.
2. Bennett Street (from Nelson Avenue to Marlborough Avenue) in Metrotown, adjacent Lobley Park and the No. 3 Firehall.
3. Nelson Avenue (from Jubilee to Imperial) in Metrotown, adjacent the Cenotaph area of Bonsor Park.

Upon Council approval to proceed with the application for these three projects, staff will prepare requests for one-third cost sharing from the B.C. Hydro Beautification Program.

Upon receipt of Burnaby's application, B.C. Hydro will provide cost estimates for Burnaby's proposed projects. At that time, a further report will be submitted to Council to consider priorities and to outline city funding requirements for specific projects that Council wishes to proceed with in the 1999/2000 Program.

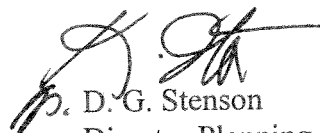
**3.0 FUNDING**

Sufficient Capital Reserves are available and \$250,000 is provided in the 1999 Land Assembly and Development component of the 1998-2002 Capital Program for underground wiring.



SL/ds

cc: Director Engineering  
Director Finance



D. G. Stenson  
Director Planning and Building