

TO: CITY MANAGER

2004 September 20

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
2005/2006 B.C. HYDRO BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To outline proposed underground wiring projects for submission to B.C. Hydro for cost sharing in the 2005/2006 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 this report.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

In the *attached* letter from B.C. Hydro dated 2003 September 3, the City of Burnaby was invited to consider projects for submission under the terms of B.C. Hydro's 2005/2006 Beautification Program, with a deadline for submission of 2004 October 01.

For a number 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 has provided one-third cost sharing for various underground wiring projects, with Burnaby providing two-thirds of the project costs. For example, funding assistance has been received in previous years to underground overhead lines on Patterson Avenue adjacent to Central Park, along Willingdon Avenue adjacent to Confederation Park, on the Government Street corridor (Lougheed Town Centre), along Bennett Street between Nelson Avenue and Marlborough Avenue, and along Cameron Street in the Lougheed Town Centre.

Cameron Street - Phase I (from Bartlett Court to Beaverbrook Drive - see *attached* Sketch #1), the 2003/2004 submission, is in its final design stage to be completed within the required time frame of the B.C. Hydro Beautification Program. The approved 2004/2005 submission, Cameron Street - Phase II (from Beaverbrook Drive to Bell Avenue - see *attached* Sketch #1), is currently in its initial design stage. The Cameron Street project is multi-phased due to the larger overall cost of removing this lengthy overhead line. This phased approach is supported by B.C. Hydro. While it is likely that the Cameron Street project will be advanced to its final phase as a priority project for the 2005/2006 B.C. Hydro Beautification Program, the specific recommended priority project will be outlined in

a subsequent report for Council's consideration after receiving cost estimates of a number of potential projects outlined in the following section.

2.0 2004/2005 BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

In line with usual procedures established by BC Hydro, for the 2005/2006 Program, staff are submitting an application to B.C. Hydro to provide estimates for a number of potential projects. As with previous applications, each of the following proposed projects are located either within a Town Centre or adjacent to significant parks or cultural precincts. The proposed projects are as follows:

- a) Cameron Street - Phase III in the Lougheed Town Centre (from Bell Avenue to Keswick Avenue);
- b) Southpoint Drive (from Sandborne Avenue to Twentieth Street) in the Edmonds Town Centre, adjacent to the Hanna Court and B.C. Hydro Children's Centres; and
- c) Canada Way (from Kensington Avenue to Deer Lake Avenue), and Deer Lake/Sperling Avenue (essentially Sperling Avenue from Canada Way to Hampstead Place), adjacent to Deer Lake Park.

Upon Council approval to proceed with the application for these 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 ball park cost estimates for Burnaby's proposed projects. At that time, a further report will be submitted to Council to consider the recommended priority project and to outline City funding requirements for the 2005/2006 Program.

3.0 EDMONDS STREET REVITALIZATION STRATEGY

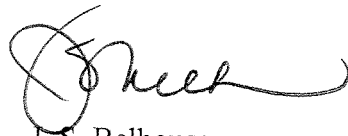
As part of the Edmonds Street Revitalization Strategy, the undergrounding of overhead wires along Edmonds Street will be pursued. A terms of reference (TOR) has been prepared to request an electrical consultant's assistance in determining the feasibility and costing of undergrounding overhead wires along Edmonds Street. Due to numerous overhead connections to individual commercial and residential properties, the Edmonds Street underground wiring project may require space either within the Edmonds Street road right-of-way or on private property for the placement of the transformers and junction boxes necessary to support the electrical and telephone services.

Although undergrounding overhead wires along Edmonds Street is a priority as part of the Edmonds Street Revitalization Strategy, in the context of the BC Hydro Beautification Program, there is currently insufficient information on the feasibility and cost of the project to recommend it at this time as a priority project. Moreover, due to the extent of the overhead wires, the Edmonds project would require a multi-phased approach. In relation to similar projects of its kind, such as the current Cameron Street project, it would likely take a minimum of five years to complete with joint funding.

Therefore, at this time, it has been determined that the Edmonds Street underground wiring project will run concurrently with the BC Hydro Beautification Program until the current Cameron Street Project has been completed and more information has been gathered on the feasibility of the Edmonds Street underground wiring project.

4.0 FUNDING

Sufficient Capital Reserves are available and \$250,000 is provided for underground wiring in the 2005 Land Development component of the 2004-2008 Annual Capital Program.

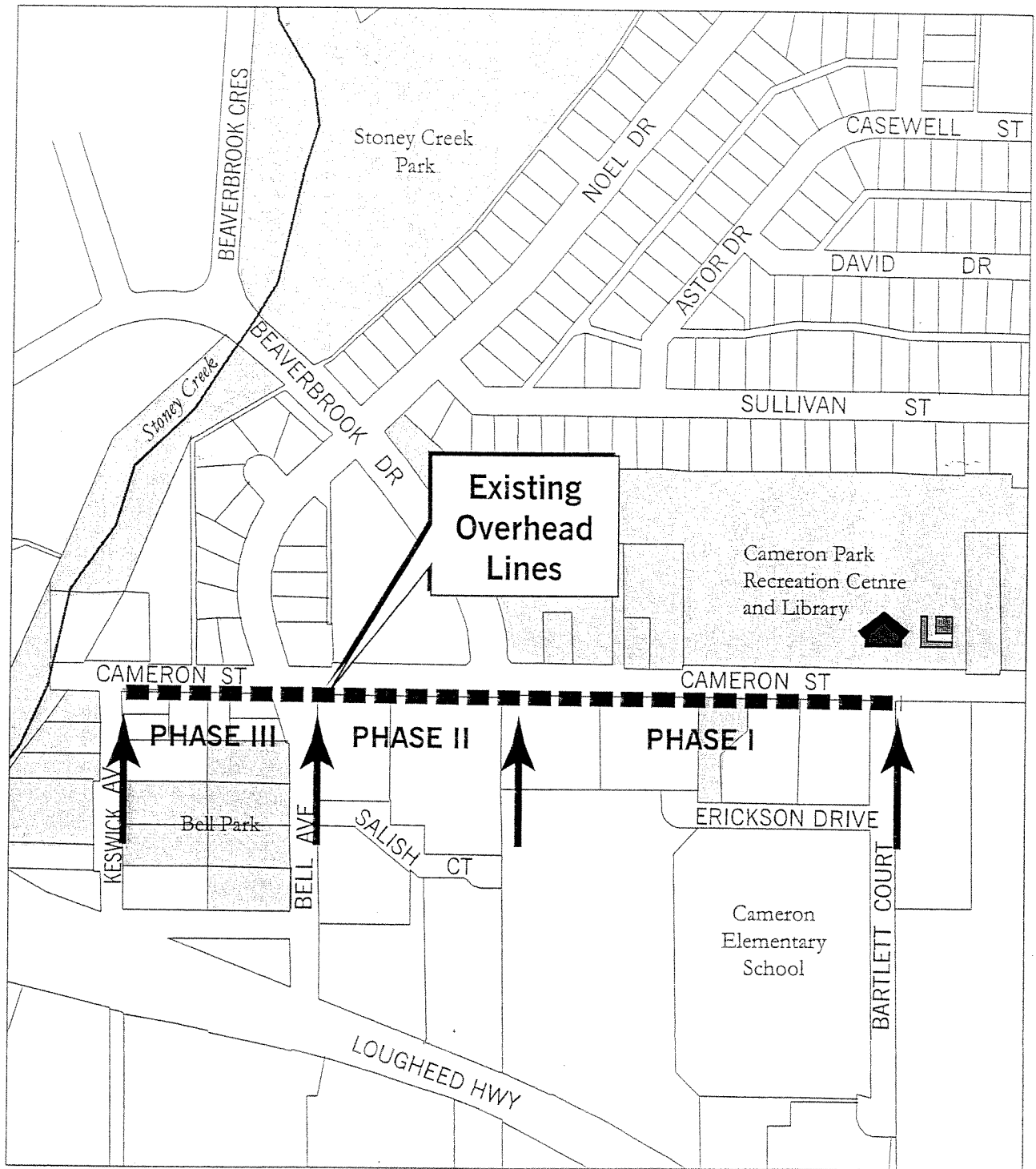


J. S. Belhouse
Director Planning and Building

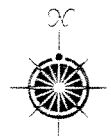
KH:gk
Attachments

- cc. Director Engineering
- Director Finance
- Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
- Manager, Transportation Planning

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Sketch #1
 Cameron Street Project
 Proposed Underground Wiring
 BC Hydro Beautification Program, 2004/2005





THE POWER IS YOURS

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September 3, 2004

The Mayor and Council
The City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 1M2

Dear Mayor and Council:

Subject: Funding Available for Electric Beautification Projects

Annually, BC Hydro budgets one million dollars for municipal beautification projects. Municipalities wishing to place existing overhead distribution lines underground to address environmental concerns, improve visual aesthetics or accommodate community redevelopment projects are welcome to apply for funding.

Funding is available for one-third of the BC Hydro beautification project cost. The attachment describes our program in more detail.

If you are considering a beautification project, an application form (attached) must be returned by October 1st with a description of the project, a map showing the extent of the project and an explanation of the project's objectives.

After receiving your application, we will prepare a "ballpark" estimate of cost for your municipality to consider. The municipality will be asked to confirm intent to fund two-thirds of the project cost and to confirm that the telephone utility has been advised of the project details. This confirmation must be received at BC Hydro by November 15th to be reviewed by our Board of Directors and the successful applicants will be notified in February. All accepted projects must begin within the fiscal year that they are approved and be completed within 12 months.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have about the program. If you would like to be considered for funding in 2005, please submit your application no later than October 1, 2004.

Yours truly,

Harold Nelson, P.Eng., MBA
CP&O Manager
Lower Mainland Central

cc: Mr. Jack Belhouse, Director of Planning and Building
Mr. Craig Sinclair, Director of Engineering

Attach.

