

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS***SUBJECT: FRASER RIVER DEBRIS TRAP CURRENT STATUS**RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT City Council support the Fraser River Debris Trap Operating Committee (FRDTC) initiative to secure stable funding from the provincial and federal governments for the Fraser River Debris Trap.
2. THAT copies of this report be forwarded to Burnaby MLA's, MP's, UBCM, Lower Mainland UBCM member municipalities, Fraser Basin Council, Fisheries and Oceans, Transport Canada, Fraser Port Authority, North Fraser Port Authority, Vancouver Port Authority, Provincial Ministry of Transportation and Provincial Ministry of Forests and Range.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2006 November 14, received and adopted the *attached* report regarding the current funding status for the Fraser River Debris Trap. The Committee noted that the Fraser River Debris Trap Operating Committee (FRDTC) is currently in discussion with senior levels of government to establish a secure funding and governance agreement for the debris trap.

Arising from discussion, the Committee requested that Council support the FRDTC initiative to secure stable funding from the provincial and federal governments for the debris trap.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Dan Johnston  
ChairCouncillor Pietro Calendino  
Vice ChairCouncillor Lee Rankin  
Member

:COPY - CITY MANAGER  
DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING  
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING  
DIR. CORP. DEV., FRASER BASIN COUNCIL

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE **DATE:** 2006 November 9

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING **FILE:** 31000-09

**SUBJECT:** FRASER RIVER DEBRIS TRAP CURRENT STATUS

**PURPOSE:** To respond to the Committee's request for information on the Fraser River Debris Trap.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the Committee receive this report for information purposes.

**REPORT**

At its 2006 October 10 meeting, the Committee requested information regarding funding of the Fraser River Debris Trap. This report provides the requested information.

The purpose of the Debris Trap is to remove wood debris from the Fraser River in order to reduce risks of damage to infrastructure along the river, and to allow for safer navigation downstream of the trap and in the southern waters of the Strait of Georgia. The Debris Trap, located on the north shore of the Fraser River between Aggasiz and Hope, captures an average annual volume of 60,000 m<sup>3</sup> (or the equivalent of 14,000 logging truckloads) of wood debris from the river - mostly uprooted and fallen trees that enter the river through natural causes.

The operation of the Debris Trap provides broad public benefits that are in the form of damage prevention to boats and infrastructure (such as docks, piers, foreshore buildings and bridges), avoided costs of debris clean-up along beaches and marshes, and economic opportunities stemming from the operation of commercial and recreational vessels. The Debris Trap also serves to reduce impacts to estuarine habitats, reduce risk of personal injuries and fatalities on the river, and reduce damage and economic losses to shore-based land-uses.

Since 1998, the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) has administered the Debris Trap program through the multi-stakeholder "Fraser River Debris Trap Operating Committee" (FRDTOC). This committee is comprised of federal, provincial, and other government agencies, as well as members of the private sector.

In the 2005 operating year, the following partners contributed funds toward a total budget of \$450,000: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada, Fraser River Port Authority, Western Diversification Canada, Transport Canada, BC Ministry of Transportation, BC Ministry of

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Forests and Range, BC Ferry Services Incorporated, TransLink, and District of West Vancouver Parks.

In the 2006 operating year, several Federal government departments discontinued their funding of the Debris Trap, creating a shortfall in the \$585,000 budget and leaving the program in a state of great uncertainty. Contributors that withdrew from the Debris Trap Program include:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Fraser River Port Authority, and Western Diversification Canada. Of particular note, the coastal forest industry discontinued its funding in 2004, citing financial difficulties faced by the coastal forest industry as one of the reasons for ending its contribution.

In response to the FRDTC's estimated funding shortfall of \$205,000 for 2006, the GVRD Board agreed to make a one-time funding contribution of up to \$205,000 to help address the shortfall caused by the Federal government and other contributors. At its 3 November 2006 meeting, the GVRD Board approved payment of a \$205,000 invoice for the 2006 operation of the Debris Trap. GVRD funding was supplemented by emergency contributions from some Provincial ministries.

The FRDTC is continuing in its efforts to establish secure funding sources for the continued operation of the Debris Trap in 2007 and beyond. The FRDTC is currently in discussion with senior levels of government at the Provincial and Federal levels to establish a secure funding and governance agreement for the Debris Trap. As progress is made by the FRDTC to secure a stable funding source, staff will undertake to update the Committee on the results of the FRDTC's efforts to provide for the long-term operation of the Debris Trap.

Should a long-term funding source not be secured by the FRDTC, the FBC may cease to administer the Debris Trap program in 2007 and beyond.

This report is submitted for the information of the Committee.



B. Luksun, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

YH/BM/sa/jc

Copied to: City Manager  
Director Engineering  
Director Corporate Development, Fraser Basin Council

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