
TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2006 September 18

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING **FILE:** 83000 03
Reference: Hydro Beautification Project

**SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
2007 BC HYDRO BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM**

PURPOSE: To seek Council authorization to apply for cost sharing of proposed underground wiring projects under the 2007 BC Hydro Beautification Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** staff be authorized to apply to BC Hydro for cost sharing assistance under the 2007 BC Hydro Beautification Program for undergrounding the overhead lines as described in this report.

REPORT

In the attached cover letter from BC Hydro dated 2006 September 08, the City of Burnaby was invited to consider projects for submission under the terms of BC Hydro's 2007 Beautification Program, with a deadline for submission of 2006 October 1.

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 BC 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 recent years to underground overhead lines along Willingdon Avenue adjacent to Confederation Park, along Bennett Street between Nelson Avenue and Marlborough Avenue, and along Cameron Street in the Lougheed Town Centre.


The approved 2003 and 2004 submissions, Cameron Street - Phase I (from Bartlett Court to Beaverbrook Drive) and Cameron Street - Phase II (from Beaverbrook Drive to Bell Avenue), were completed within the required time frame of the BC Hydro Beautification Program. The 2005 submission, Cameron Street - Phase III (from Bell Avenue to Keswick Avenue), did not proceed due to the unexpected high estimate provided by BC Hydro. Additional City funds would have been required to maintain service to seven single-family homes fronting Cameron Street and Bell Avenue, five of which are in the process of being acquired by the City for park

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2007 BC Hydro Beautification Program
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purposes. Cameron Street - Phase III may be pursued once the City has acquired the five single-family properties designated for park use.

On 2005 November 7, Council approved the submission to underground wiring along Canada Way from Kensington Avenue to Deer Lake Avenue and Sperling Avenue from Canada Way to Hampstead Place as the City's priority project for the 2006 Beautification Program. This project seeks to remove poorly sited hydro poles and underground highly visible overhead wires adjacent to the civic arts and cultural precinct and Deer Lake Park. BC Hydro is currently preparing a detailed cost assessment for this project, which would be divided into multi-year phases, consistent with the City's capital program allocation. The specific phases of the Canada Way and Sperling project will be outlined in a subsequent report for Council's consideration after receiving detailed cost estimates and design plans from BC Hydro.

Staff are seeking Council authorization to make an application to BC Hydro for continuation of subsequent phases of the Canada Way and Sperling project identified in the above described process for the 2007 program. Upon receipt of BC Hydro's cost estimates and design plans, staff will prepare a further report for Council consideration for expenditure authorization in line with the City's Annual Capital Program.



B. Luksun
Director Planning & Building

MW:gk
Attachment

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

P:\Marnie\BC Hydro Beautification\2007\Beautificaton Application Report.doc

BC
MW



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8 September 2006

The Mayor and Council
The City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby BC 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 wanting 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 estimated cost and the original scope. 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's estimated 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 2007, please submit your application no later than October 1, 2006.

Yours truly,

Charlotte Mitha, P.Eng
Regional Manager
Lower Mainland North
Field Operations - Design

cc: Mr. Jack. S. Belhouse, Director of Planning and Building

Attach.

