



Item .....
Meeting ..... 2011 October 17

COUNCIL REPORT

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**TO:** CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2011 October 12

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

**SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR COST SHARE FUNDING  
BC HYDRO BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM - 2012-2013**

**PURPOSE:** To seek Council authorization to apply to BC Hydro for cost share funding for undergrounding of overhead lines.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** staff be authorized to submit an application to BC Hydro for cost share funding under the Beautification Program, as outlined in this report.

**R E P O R T**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

As indicated in the *attached* letter from BC Hydro, the City is invited to submit projects for consideration under B.C. Hydro's 2012-2013 Beautification Program. BC Hydro has extended the deadline for receipt of applications to accommodate Council's consideration of this report.

Since the inception of the BC Hydro Program, Burnaby has been pursuing an incremental program to remove overhead power lines in higher profile locations. Participation in the BC Hydro Beautification Program has provided one-third cost sharing for various City underground wiring projects. The 2009-2010 Beautification Program provided for the removal of lines along Canada Way from Deer Lake Avenue to Sperling Avenue. This project has improved the visual landscape of the Kensington Interchange area which serves as a civic gateway.

**2.0 BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM APPLICATION - 2012-2013**

Staff have reviewed a number of potential projects for Council's consideration for the 2012-2013 Beautification Program. In line with procedures established by BC Hydro, the City is requested to submit multiple projects for a review of their feasibility as well as the development of project estimates. As such, staff have identified four potential projects for consideration. Three of the projects identified are adjacent to City Lands in the Central Administrative Area and Deer Lake Park. These potential projects have been selected due to the area's importance as a civic amenity. An additional project on Gilmore Avenue adjacent the City's Jim Lorimer Park has also been identified,

as a number of overhead lines have already been undergrounded on Gilmore to the North in conjunction with development in line with the Brentwood Town Centre Plan.

The potential proposed projects to be advanced to BC Hydro for review of feasibility and development of cost estimates include:

- Option A) Deer Lake Avenue from Canada Way to the Burnaby Art Gallery** (see Sketch #1 *attached*). This project would continue the work from the 2009-2010 Program extending the undergrounding west to remove the remaining hydro poles fronting Deer Lake Park. This project would improve the streetscape on Deer Lake Avenue and Canada Way in this civic and park precinct.
  
- Option B) Deer Lake Park from Deer Lake Avenue to the Burnaby Art Gallery** (see Sketch #1 *attached*). This project would remove 3 poles along with poorly sited wiring which connects the buildings of the Burnaby Art Gallery to the existing service on Deer Lake Avenue along an unopened road right of way. This project would seek to improve the visual landscape within Deer Lake Park.
  
- Option C) Deer Lake Avenue from the Burnaby Art Gallery to Rowan Avenue** (see Sketch #1 *attached*). This project would remove 4 existing poles opposite the Burnaby RCMP Building and City Hall. This project would seek to improve the streetscape on Deer Lake Avenue, adjacent to Deer Lake Park.
  
- Option D) Gilmore Avenue fronting Jim Lorimer Park** (see Sketch #2 *attached*). This project would remove 5 existing poles and wiring from the rail tracks to the development at 4118 Dawson Street. This project would improve the visual interface between Jim Lorimer Park and Gilmore Avenue.

Staff would note that in previous years, BC Hydro assisted in the review of the feasibility of undergrounding projects on Edmonds Street from Kingsway to Canada Way and on Sperling Avenue from Canada Way to Hamstead Place. These projects were found to be not feasible to advance with the limited funding availability of the Beautification Program, and the need to maintain existing overhead connections to established developments.

With Council approval to advance a new application for consideration of the above noted potential projects, staff will prepare a submission to the BC Hydro Beautification Program for technical review, cost estimates and consideration for cost share funding. Upon receipt of the future response from BC Hydro, staff would prepare a further report for Council to consider a recommended priority project and to outline City funding requirements.

#### 4.0 FINANCING

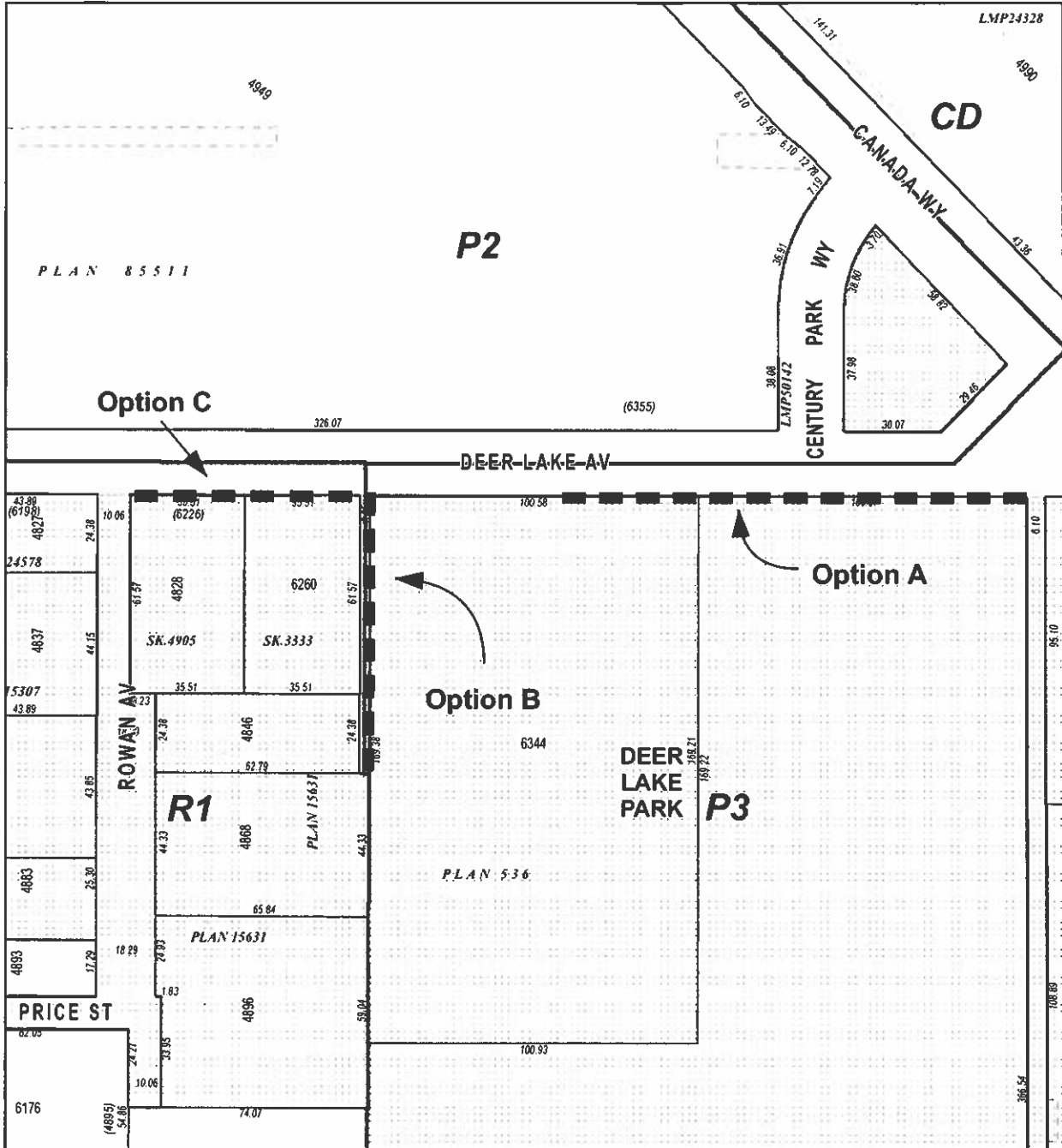
A Capital Budget allocation of \$350,000 for 2012 and \$350,000 for 2013 is provided for the underground wiring Beautification Program within the City's 2011 to 2015 Annual Capital Program. With Council's future approval of a specific project for 2012-2013, staff would advance the approved project in line with the City's Capital Budget for this program.



B. Luksun, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

DR:

cc. Director Engineering  
Director Finance  
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services



City of Burnaby

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

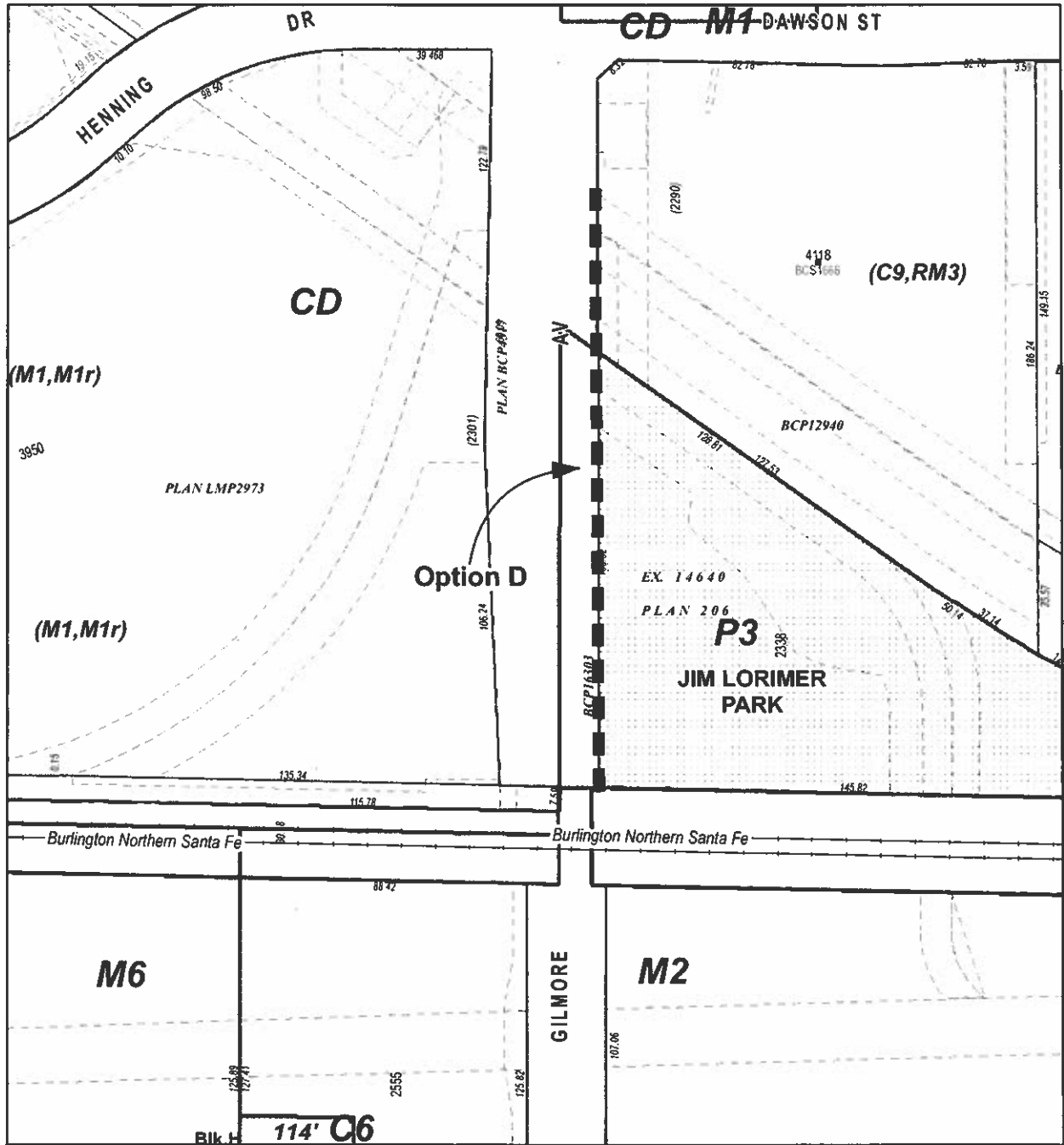


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**Hydro Beautification Projects**



PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT



DATE:  
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Hydro Beautification Projects

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FOR GENERATIONS

Customer Projects  
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority  
Phone: (604) 528-3171  
Fax: (604) 528-2232

08 September 2011

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 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 VP, Field Operations 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 2012, please submit your application no later than October 1, 2011.

Yours truly,

Jake Almonidovar  
Senior Design Manager  
Transmission & Distribution

cc: Telus Engineering  
G. Samra, Design Manager, Burnaby/Coquitlam

Attachments