

COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: WATERWAYS OF BURNABY - HERITAGE CREEK NAME PROJECT

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council approve an expenditure of \$5,000 (inclusive of HST) from the budget of the Heritage Commission to produce the Waterways of Burnaby map poster and to implement the Heritage Creek Name Project, as outlined in this report.
2. THAT Council send a copy of this report to the Environment Committee for their information.

REPORT

The Community Heritage Commission, at its meeting held on 2012 March 01, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking Council approval to advance a Heritage Creek Name Project as part of Burnaby's Environment Week to be held from 2012 June 03 to June 09.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Jordan
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Vice Chair

Councillor R. Chang
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Director Planning & Building Director Engineering Director Parks, Recr. & Cult. Services
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

DATE: 2012 February 22

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 79100 08
Reference: Heritage Creek Naming

SUBJECT: WATERWAYS OF BURNABY - HERITAGE CREEK NAME PROJECT

PURPOSE: To advance a Heritage Creek Name Project as part of Burnaby's Environment Week, June 03 - 09, 2012.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council approve an expenditure of \$5,000.00 (inclusive of HST) from the budget of the Heritage Commission to produce the Waterways of Burnaby map poster and to implement the Heritage Creek Name Project, as outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** Council send a copy of this report to the Environment Committee for their information.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

In 1993, Council approved a Heritage Creek Name Project based on a phased implementation program related to the production of the *Waterways of Burnaby* map poster. The goal of this project was to establish unique names for all of Burnaby's creeks to better promote their historical significance and environmental value to the City. This program was completed with the official naming of 46 creeks that were officially adopted by Council and incorporated into the City's mapping systems and waterways education information. This project was a joint initiative of the Community Heritage Commission and Environment Committee.

As part of ongoing efforts to accurately survey and map the City's environmental features, a significant number of additional unnamed waterways have now been documented and mapped by the City. This report provides the background of the original Heritage Creek Name Project and outlines a proposal to launch a new phase of the project to select public nominations of creek names for 38 unnamed waterways in the City. An updated *Waterways of Burnaby* map poster is proposed to be produced for Burnaby Environment Week, to be held from June 3 - June 9, 2012, to provide increased public awareness and obtain nominations for the Heritage Creek Name Project.

2.0 BURNABY'S HERITAGE CREEK NAME PROJECT

The Community Heritage Commission in partnership with the Environment Committee completed a successful program from 1993 -1998 to document and name the City's waterways under the Heritage Creek Name Project which was promoted through the production of the *Waterways of Burnaby* map poster. This project was a significant and innovative environmental and heritage public education

To: Community Heritage Commission
From: Director Planning and Building
Re: Waterways of Burnaby – Heritage Creek Name Project
2012 February 22..... Page 2

initiative that involved the active participation of the City's residents. Through a public nomination process, pioneer residents were engaged to submit long-forgotten historic creek names and all citizens were encouraged to nominate new names for any unnamed creeks. The goal of the project was to give a unique identity to every creek located throughout the City and raise awareness of Burnaby's extensive waterway systems and their value to our collective environment. The project was a reflection of Burnaby's long history and commitment to environmental protection of its creeks and ravines through its park and open space system, and the interest and knowledge of citizens to promote and protect all of the City's waterways.

In 1998, Council concluded the original project by officially adopting 46 new creek names for the City that were published in a revised *Waterways of Burnaby* map poster. The project was widely acknowledged as an innovative initiative and received an 'Outstanding Achievement Award' from Heritage BC in 1999 as one of the best heritage projects in the Province. In citing Burnaby for this award, the adjudication committee noted that the project generated a high-level of community support and involvement and demonstrated how a community based naming project could elevate local awareness of creeks as a precious environmental and heritage resource.

Since the completion of the original Heritage Creek Name Project, the City has continued to document and map waterways in greater detail. The City's capability to map waterways has improved over time with the application of Geographical Information System (GIS) and Geographic Positioning System (GPS) technologies. The documentation to protect waterways has also been advanced through the application of Streamside Protection requirements of the Zoning Bylaw for approval of new development near riparian areas and development of Integrated Storm-water Management Plans (ISMP).

These initiatives have resulted in more detailed knowledge and data being gathered on the drainage systems in the City's three major watersheds. Through these activities, a substantial number of new waterways have been documented which had not been identified at the time of the original Waterways of Burnaby initiative over a decade ago. In total, an additional 38 unnamed waterways in the three major watersheds of the City have been documented and include: 7 creeks in the Burrard Inlet watershed, 25 creeks in the Central Valley watershed and 6 creeks in the Fraser River watershed. These creeks include very small seasonal creeks, natural creeks, and other drainage channels that support fish and other wildlife (*see Attachments #1, #2, #3*).

In evaluating these waterways, Planning staff have concluded that there is value in ensuring that all of Burnaby's waterways continue to be identified with a unique name through a new phase of the Heritage Creek Name Project. Although a majority of these waterways are smaller creeks and historic drainage channels, they are an integral part of the City's ecosystem to be protected. Identification of waterways with a unique community or historic name has proven to be of tremendous benefit for the community's awareness and knowledge of a creek's location and attributes, and supports stewardship efforts and other restoration projects by associating a unique name to each watercourse. In the interest of ensuring a consistent approach to the identification of the City's waterways, the advancement of a new phase of the Burnaby Heritage Creek Name Project to name 38 unnamed waterways is being recommended at this time.

3.0 PROPOSED 2012 HERITAGE CREEK NAME PROJECT

In order to launch this new phase of the Heritage Creek Name Project, and gain a high level of interest and citizen participation, it is proposed that this project be integrated into the City's 2012

To: Community Heritage Commission
From: Director Planning and Building
Re: Waterways of Burnaby – Heritage Creek Name Project
2012 February 22..... Page 3

Environment Week program. Council, through the Environment Committee, approved an approach for this year's event at their meeting of 2012 February 20. This year the theme of Environment Week is 'Water – Ours to Conserve and Protect' and would be complemented by the addition of the Heritage Creek Name Project as part of the event.

The following program components would comprise the Heritage Creek Name Project:

3.1 Updated Waterways of Burnaby Map Poster

City staff have prepared a new electronic version of Burnaby's Waterways identifying all of Burnaby's named and unnamed creeks. The waterways are illustrated in the context of their watersheds and relationship to the City's park and open spaces. The history behind each named waterway's name that has been adopted by Council is also included. The map poster includes information on how citizens can protect waterways and enhance the environment. The 38 unnamed waterways of the City are identified on the map with a code number related to the three watersheds.

Citizens will also be provided with details on how to nominate a creek name through mail, email, webpage links and telephone. A sufficient quantity of the map poster would be printed for promotion of the project through its distribution to all Burnaby community centres, libraries, schools and the public.

3.2 Interactive Webpage on Burnaby's New Website

With the launch of the new *Waterways of Burnaby* map poster and Heritage Creek Name Project, a new webpage will be established on the City's website within the existing Environment pages. As part of the promotional material on the website for the 2012 Heritage Creek Name Project, an interactive map with descriptions and photographs of the unnamed creeks and electronic feedback form to nominate a new creek name will be developed.

3.3 Creek Name Selection and Promotion

In the interest of ensuring the widest possible opportunity for publicity and awareness of the Burnaby Creek Name Project, the deadline for submissions will be kept open for approximately four months. Citizens will be encouraged to nominate unique creek names that will be adjudicated utilizing the following criteria for consideration by a selection committee:

Does the nominated creek name uniquely describe and celebrate either:

- The location or character of the creek;
- The history of the creek and/or its neighbourhood;
- The ecosystem sustained by the creek (including unique fish, wildlife or plants); and/or
- A person instrumental in preserving this creek or the environment of Burnaby.

The review of all creek name nominations and final selections is proposed to be made by an ad hoc sub-committee of six members - three members selected by the Community Heritage Commission and three members selected by the Environment Committee. The sub-committee will be supported by staff and would be able to select names for any creek based on submitted nominations or any other information provided for their consideration.

To: Community Heritage Commission
From: Director Planning and Building
Re: Waterways of Burnaby – Heritage Creek Name Project
2012 February 22..... Page 4

The final report of the selection committee will be advanced for approval through a Closed report to Council through a joint report of the two committees. The final selection of new creek names adopted by Council is intended to be announced and promoted during B.C. River's Day on Sunday, September 29, 2012.

3.4 New Waterways of Burnaby Map Poster

Based on the names selected, the *Waterways of Burnaby* map poster would be updated and developed. It is proposed that it be printed for the B.C. River's Day event in order to present the results of the process of the Heritage Creek Name Project with all of the new names and the story behind their nomination and selection. A quantity of the printed posters will be distributed and an online version of the poster will be available for viewing on the City's website.

4.0 FINANCING

Given the significance of this project for the City's heritage and environmental programs, a budget is required to ensure that sufficient quantities of maps and other promotional materials are printed and distributed. The cost of printing and distribution of two separate print runs of the *Waterways of Burnaby* maps and program brochures has been estimated at \$5,000.00. Sufficient funds to undertake the proposed project are available in the 2012 Budget of the Community Heritage Commission.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

As outlined in this report, the Waterways of Burnaby - Heritage Creek Name Project would significantly advance the City's ongoing effort to promote and protect its waterways as part of its heritage and environmental programs. The proposed new phase of the Burnaby Heritage Creek Name Project has been developed to coincide and contribute to the City's 2012 Environment Week and BC Rivers Day programs in order to actively engage citizens to participate in the project and increase their awareness of our waterways. Staff will keep the Community Heritage Commission and the Environment Committee apprised of the progress of the project and would seek the required nominations to the ad hoc sub-committee to review creek name submissions.

This report is submitted for the consideration of the Commission and Council.

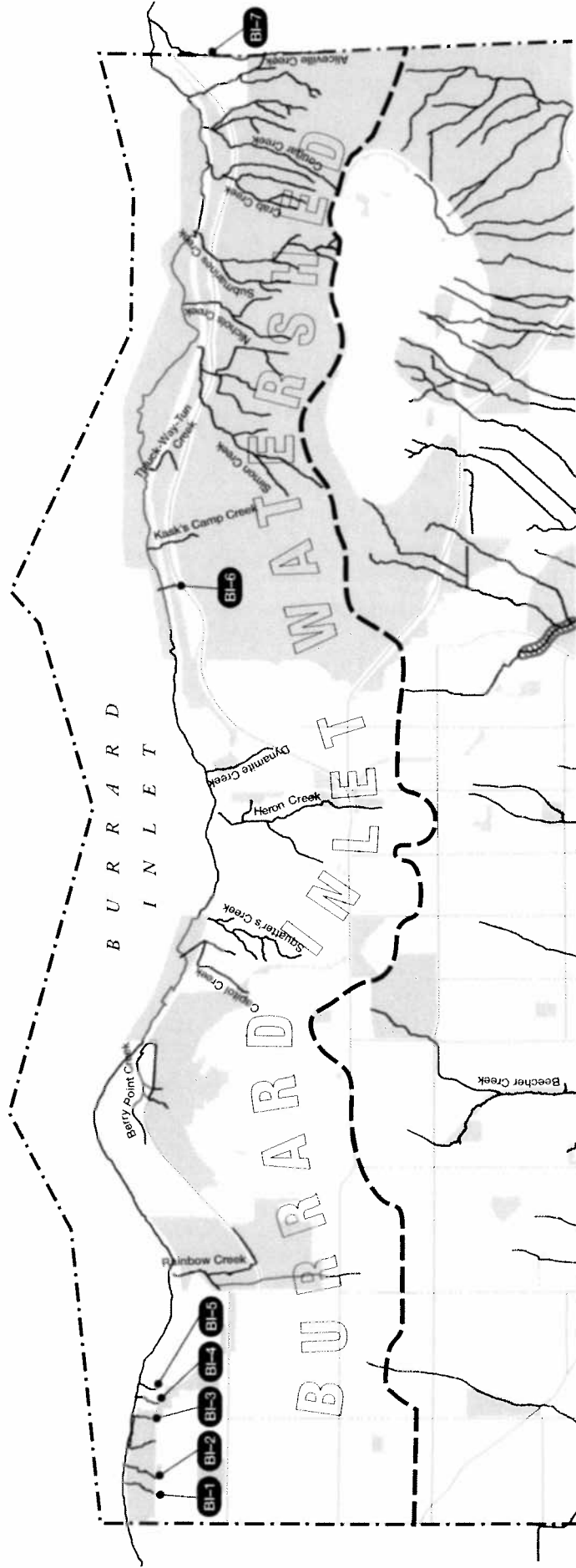


B. Luksun, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

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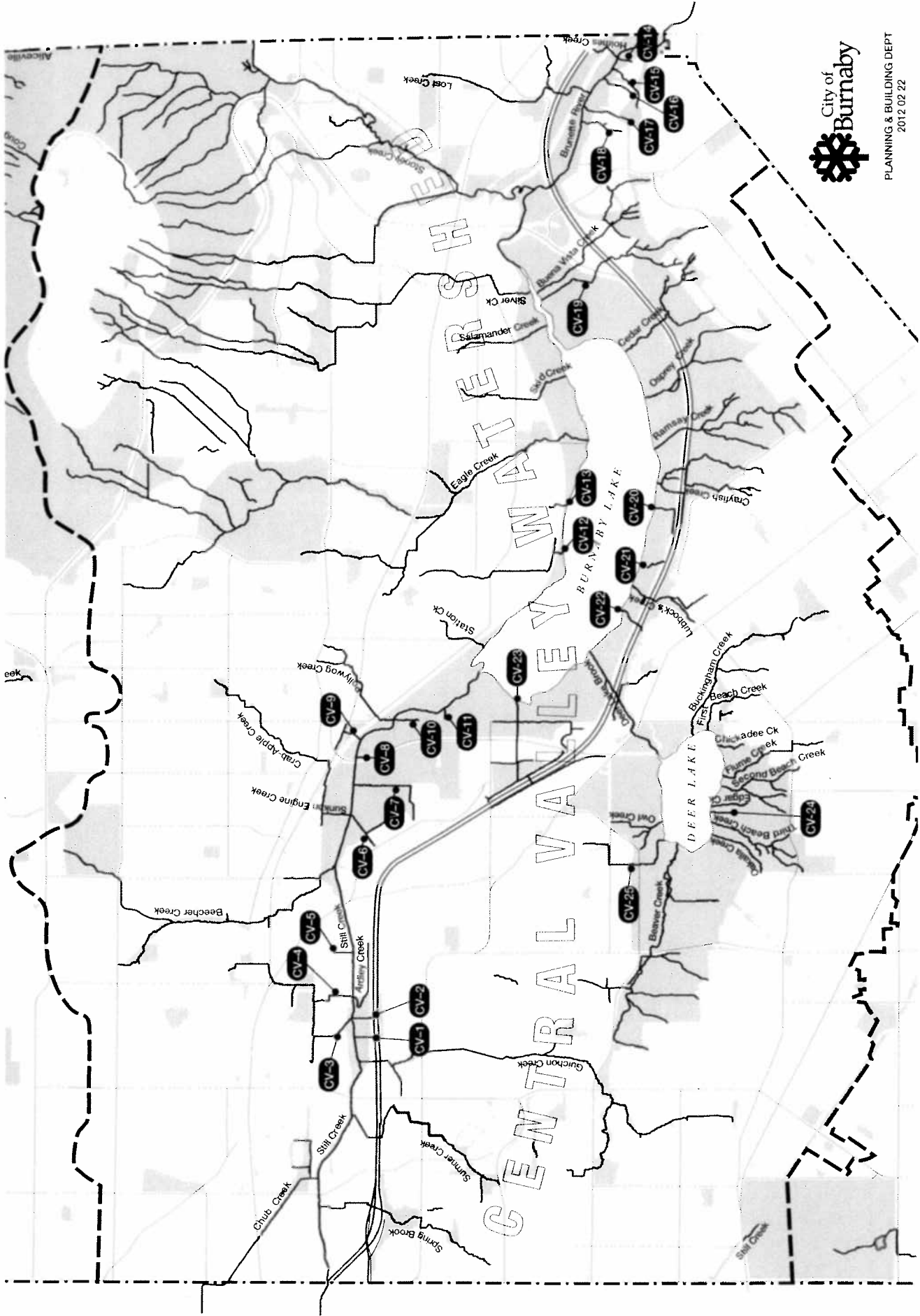
Attachments

cc: City Manager
Director Engineering
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

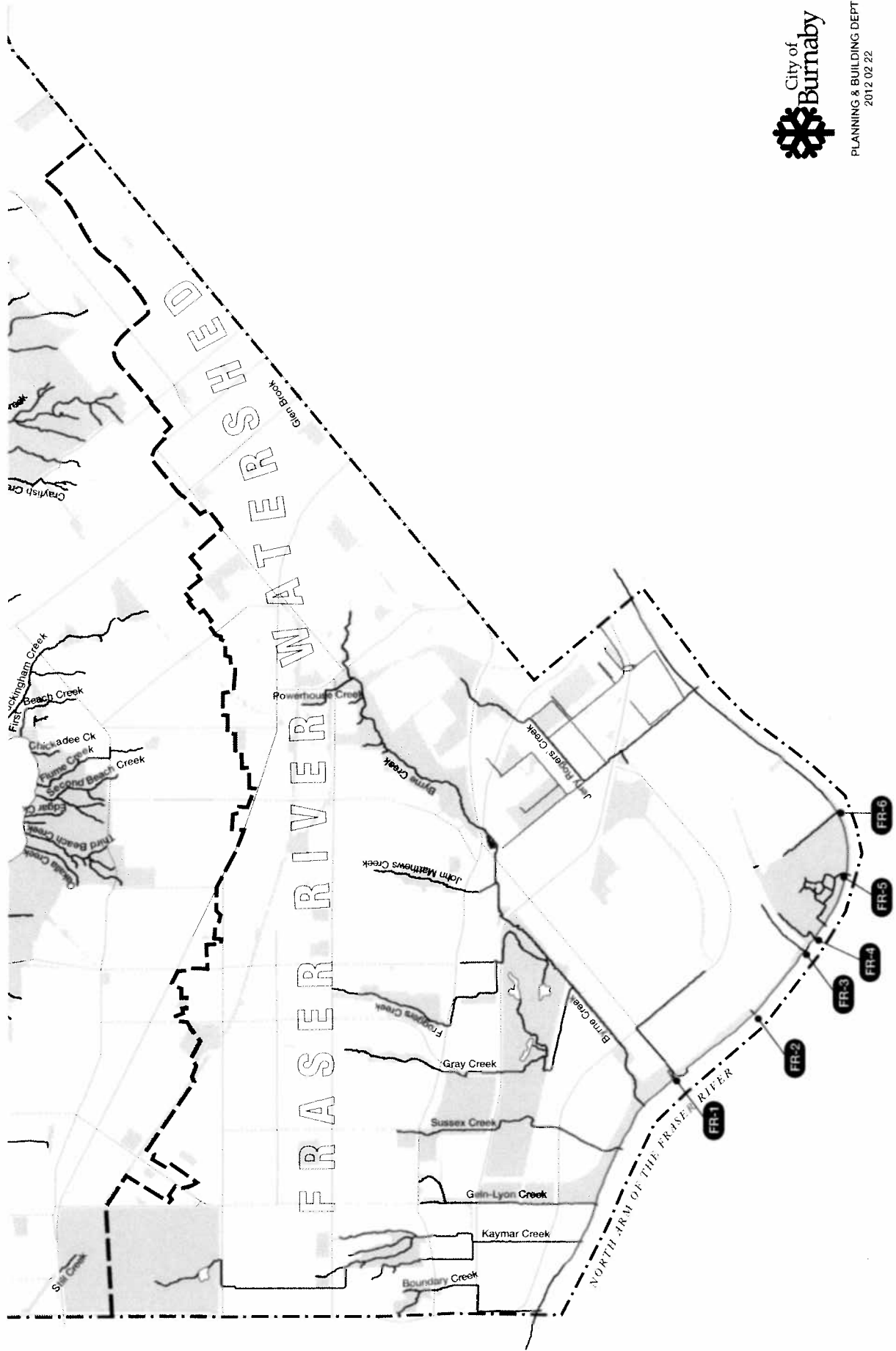


PLANNING & BUILDING DEPT
2012.02.22

**Waterways of Burnaby Heritage Creek Name Project
Unnamed Creeks – Burrard Inlet Watershed**



Waterways of Burnaby Heritage Creek Name Project
 Unnamed Creeks – Central Valley Watershed



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2012 02 22

Waterways of Burnaby Heritage Creek Name Project
Unnamed Creeks – Fraser River Watershed