



# Corporate NO: R032

# Report COUNCIL DATE: February 26, 2001

<b>REGULAR COUNCIL</b>			
TO:	<b>Mayor &amp; Council</b>	DATE:	<b>February 19, 2001</b>
FROM:	<b>General Manager, Engineering</b>	FILE:	<b>0046-051</b>
SUBJECT:	<b>Liquid Waste Management Plan – Stage 3</b>		

## RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the waste management plan entitled *Greater Vancouver Regional District Liquid Waste Management Plan, February, 2001* and authorize the Greater Vancouver Regional District to submit the Liquid Waste Management Plan to the British Columbia Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks for approval pursuant to Section 18(1) of the British Columbia Waste Management Act.

## DISCUSSION

The region and the member municipalities have been working in partnership to complete a Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) in accordance with the provincial Waste Management Act. The development of a LWMP is a three stage process with each stage requiring the approval of the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks. Last June, Stage 2 was completed and the Minister's unconditional approval was received in October, 2000. Work commenced immediately on Stage 3, which provides the implementation schedules associated with the Plan. The Stage 3 work plan targets submittal of the final Plan to the Minister by the end of March 2001.

### **Previous Council Resolution Regarding the Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP)**

At its May 1, 2000 meeting Council endorsed Stage 2 of the Liquid Waste Management Plan. A copy of the May 1, 2000 report to Council is attached.

### **The Stage 3 Liquid Waste Management Plan Work**

The Liquid Waste Management Plan was defined in Stage 2 and documented in the Stage 2 LWMP Policies

and Commitments document, dated March 2000. Stage 3 includes no new policies and commitments, but it does incorporate the implementation schedules associated with the specific regional and municipal commitments identified in Stage 2 of the Plan. The work plan also included development of the terms of reference for two standing committees to be established under the Plan – the Environmental Monitoring Committee and the Storm Water Interagency Liaison Group - and new draft operating certificates for the region's treatment plants are also to be submitted to the Ministry as part of Stage 3.

Stage 3 included review of the final document and implementation schedules by the Committees involved in the development of the LWMP – specifically the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee (REAC), the Public Advisory Committee, and the Agency Liaison Committee (senior provincial and federal government staff). Comments on the document and schedules were received from the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and Environment Canada. Suggestions were made by these senior ministries to clarify some of the Policies and Commitments being made in the Plan and these are reflected in the final document. The final Plan, dated February 2001, has been prepared and is now being circulated to municipal councils for adoption prior to final consideration by the GVRD Board. Public comment on the final Plan is also being received by the GVRD and there will be a special meeting of the GVRD's Sewerage and Drainage Committee to receive further public input on the Plan. The GVRD Board has targeted March 30, 2001 for final consideration of the Plan, following which, once adopted, it can be submitted to the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks for final approval.

### **Steps Towards Harmonization of the LWMP with Federal Legislation**

The LWMP is based on the concept of taking action, such as a treatment plant upgrade, as determined by an observed impact on the receiving environment. Such an approach requires an appropriate environmental monitoring program to assess impacts and look for 'early warning' signs so that any action may be taken in a timely manner. These environmental monitoring programs are in place and will be adjusted and improved as further data is collected.

Throughout Stage 2 and Stage 3 the region and the municipalities have been working to demonstrate that this LWMP approach is feasible and defensible with respect to the federal legislation. A series of workshops has been held involving all senior government agencies to ensure a common understanding of the benefits of the science-based approach to liquid waste management in the region. A final workshop is scheduled for March 5, 2001.

A desired outcome is that all parties to the BIEAP/FREMP (Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program/Fraser River Estuary Management Program) partnership will sign an addendum to the BIEAP/FREMP memorandum of understanding. The BIEAP/FREMP partnership includes the GVRD, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Vancouver Port Authority, the North Fraser Port Authority, and the Fraser River Port Authority. With the addendum to the BIEAP/FREMP memorandum of understanding all parties would agree to:

- Support the LWMP and work towards its long term objectives;
- Participate in the LWMP updates scheduled to take place every five years;
- Review and comment upon the biennial LWMP progress reports and interim reports;
- Participate in the Environmental Monitoring Committee; and
- Identify any issues related to the LWMP that arise through these activities, or through other initiatives to the BIEAP and FREMP Management Committees.

## Next Steps

With the support of municipal staff, the GVRD is now seeking final adoption of the LWMP from municipal councils. Following adoption by all jurisdictions in the region the GVRD Board will consider the LWMP with the objective of submitting the LWMP final document to the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks by the end of March 2001.

This completes the LWMP development process. Once approval for the Plan is received from the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks it will take effect and become the management plan for liquid waste in the region. Comprehensive reporting on progress of each of the commitments being made in the Plan will be required every two years. The Plan includes a review every five years to determine the progress made and continued relevance of the Policies and Commitments.

## CONCLUSION

The Liquid Waste Management Plan, dated February 2001 (a copy of which is available in the Engineering Department), has been prepared through a process guided by municipal engineering staff. The Plan is being forwarded by the GVRD to municipal councils for adoption, following which the GVRD will consider its approval. The GVRD is targeting submittal of Plan to the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks by the end of March, 2001. City staff have actively participated in the formulation of the Stage 3 plan and the municipal commitments in the Plan relating to drainage planning and the continued upkeep and rehabilitation of the sanitary sewer system are fully in accordance with the 10 Year financial plans for the City's utilities.

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General Manager, Engineering

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### Attachments

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