



Corporate NO: R097

Report COUNCIL DATE: May 1, 2000

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: April 25, 2000**

FROM: General Manager, Engineering **FILE: 0046-051**

SUBJECT: Revised Regional Liquid Waste Management Plan

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the waste management plan entitled “GVRD Liquid Waste Management Plan Stage 2 Policies and Commitments” dated March, 2000 (LWMP Stage 2) and authorize its submittal to the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks for approval.

CONTEXT AND DISCUSSION

Last fall, following completion of the technical work associated with the development of a Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) for the region and the completion of the public consultation process, the draft plan was submitted for Council's endorsement.

At its September 13, 1999, meeting Council endorsed the draft Liquid Waste Management Plan. A copy of the September 13, 1999, report to Council is attached.

Senior Regulatory Agency Comments

Concurrent to receiving endorsements from municipal councils, the GVRD received letters from the senior regulatory agencies advising that the draft LWMP document required further revision before approval could be granted. At their November 10, 1999 meeting, the GVRD Board adopted the following:

- (a) Receive for information the report dated August 30, 1999, Draft Liquid Waste Management Plan Stage 2 Policies and Commitments;
- (b) Apply to the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks to extend the deadline for submittal of a Stage 2 Liquid Waste Management Plan for a period of six months, to June 30, 2000;

- (c) Refine the Stage 2 Liquid Waste Management Plan Policies and Commitments document;
- (d) Forward the refined LWMP Stage 2 to the municipal councils for further input;
- (e) Obtain the Board approval for the revised document; and
- (f) Submit the revised LWMP Stage 2 Policies and Commitments to the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.

In her letter dated December 22, 1999, the Minister approved a six-month extension, to June 30, 2000, for completion of the District's LWMP Stage 2 report.

Throughout the first quarter of this year, GVRD and municipal staff have focused on completing item (c) above – refinement of the Policies and Commitments document to respond to the requirements of the senior regulatory agencies.

Refinements Required by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

The LWMP document has now been refined to include specific changes required by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. The key issues that have been addressed include:

- Clarification regarding the Ministry's designation of receiving water uses and water quality objectives and the role of the District and municipalities in this process.
 - *This will ensure that municipal input is sought before the Ministry changes water quality objectives.*
- The base level of treatment at the District's wastewater treatment plants and the triggers that would require higher levels of treatment to be implemented.
 - *The original LWMP document sought to determine treatment levels solely on environmental monitoring of the receiving waters. The Ministry has required that triggers based on maximum discharge and maximum concentration of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) be written into the plan. Based on the established loading limits and projected population growth, a phased upgrading of the plants would be required to start in the following time horizons:*
 - Lions Gate (North Shore Plant) 15-20 years*
 - Iona (Vancouver Plant) 25-35 years*
- Documentation of the potential range of future District expenditures if higher levels of treatment are required to protect the receiving waters.
 - *Attached graph indicates range of costs.*
- A commitment to the long-term elimination of combined sewer overflows.

- *This affects Vancouver, Burnaby, and New Westminster.*

- A review of the plan's performance on a five-year basis.

The March, 2000, *LWMP Stage 2 Policies and Commitments* document reflects these changes. A full copy of the document is available in the Engineering Department.

Steps Towards Harmonization of the LWMP with Federal Legislation

The federal agency comments have been focused on ensuring that the plan reflects the requirements of all applicable federal legislation. Conditional on demonstration of monitoring parameters and environmental triggers, the Federal agencies have agreed to sign an addendum to the multi-agency BIEAP/FREMP (Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program/Fraser River Estuary Management Program) memorandum of understanding that would establish, as a pilot, a program for the purpose of linking the LWMP to federal regulatory requirements. Further refinements in the LWMP refer to federal legislation, reference the BIEAP/FREMP addendum, include a commitment to toxicity assessment of treatment plant effluent, and clarify the policy regarding the elimination of combined sewer overflows from Regional facilities.

With the addendum to the BIEAP/FREMP memorandum of understanding all parties will:

- 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 bi-annual LWMP progress reports and interim reports;
- Participate in the Environmental Monitoring Committee;
- Identify any issues related to the LWMP that arise through these activities, or through other initiatives to the BIEAP and FREMP Management Committees.

The GVRD and the member municipalities will:

- Undertake to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Parties that the proposed monitoring, modeling and forecasting program, upon which the environmental management approach relies, is workable.

Federal agencies will:

- Undertake early and comprehensive consultation concerning legislative, regulatory, or policy changes that may affect the LWMP.

Next Steps

With resolution of the issues raised by the senior agencies, the GVRD and municipal staff have refined the Stage 2 LWMP Policies and Commitments document. This document has been reviewed by the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee and was supported by engineering staff from all member municipalities. Formal Council endorsement from all member municipalities is required before the LWMP can be considered by the GVRD Board and forwarded to the Province for approval.

The final Stage 3 LWMP process, including further public input, will commence immediately following approval of Stage 2 by the Minister.

CONCLUSION

A revised LWMP Stage 2 Policies and Commitments document has been prepared to reflect the changes required by the regulatory agencies, in a process guided by municipal engineering staff. Overall, the plan reflects a not unreasonable compromise between the wishes of the regional municipalities and that of the Federal and Provincial agencies.

The document is being brought forward for endorsement by all Councils within the Region, following which the GVRD Board will consider approval of the LWMP Stage 2 document. The target date for submittal of Stage 2 to the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks is the extended deadline of June 30, 2000. On the basis that no further substantial changes will be required to the LWMP, the Stage 3 work can be completed soon thereafter.

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PH/brb

Attachment

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