



Corporate NO: R198

Report COUNCIL DATE: September 5, 2000

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: August 29, 2000**

FROM: General Manager, Engineering **FILE: 0046-019**

SUBJECT: Inter-Municipal Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

That the City of Surrey enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement with other Lower Mainland cities and municipalities to provide emergency Public Works (Operations) assistance.

INTENT

To receive Council authority to enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement with other Lower Mainland cities and municipalities for Public Works assistance in emergency situations.

BACKGROUND

During a past meeting of REAC (Regional Engineers Advisory Committee), discussion and a subsequent motion was put forward that recommended member cities and municipalities form a partnership through a Mutual Aid Agreement to provide backup emergency services on an 'as required' basis. A draft agreement was sent to Surrey requesting our participation in the program. It is anticipated that potentially all lower mainland will enter into this Mutual Aid Agreement.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of a Mutual Aid Agreement is that in the event of an emergency, and where individual municipality's public works resources (manpower, materials, equipment, etc.) are overwhelmed in an emergency response, the proposed agreement outlines a protocol in which the signatory to the agreement may call upon the resources of another city or municipality for aid. Some of the significant details of the agreement are:

- Local resources, including contractors, should be expended before seeking mutual aid.
 - Payment for emergency services under the Mutual Aid Agreement will be on a 'cost recovery' basis, and will not include mark-up for overhead or profit.
 - Most specialized equipment will be provided with an operator to ensure adequate familiarity and certification to operate.
 - Resources will only be made available if they are not required by their own city or municipality.

Financial Ramifications

The proposed agreement provides a mechanism to settle any disputes arising from the agreement and including financial reimbursement through an arbitration process. We would, further to this mechanism, request confirmation in writing of a detailed list of reimbursements at the time of any such request. We have been assured that there are no other financial obligations or implications to the City for entering into this agreement other than if a request for mutual aid is made by Surrey.

CONCLUSION

Entering into a Mutual Aid Agreement for emergency services on an 'as required' basis with other Lower Mainland participating cities and municipalities is a prudent approach to take in case of emergencies. These mutual aid emergency services extend only to the Operations Division and would entail provision of manpower, materials and equipment on an 'as needed' basis after participating cities and municipalities have exhausted all other service opportunities. The agreement also specifies a mechanism for reimbursement of all costs incurred resulting from a request for mutual aid to safeguard the interests of both the municipalities, requesting services and those providing emergency services.

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General Manager, Engineering

c.c. - Manager, Operations

- All Engineering Operations Section Managers