



Corporate *NO: R060*

Report *COUNCIL DATE: April 8, 2002*

REGULAR COUNCIL			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	March 28, 2002
FROM:	General Manager, Engineering	FILE:	4802-905
SUBJECT:	2002 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program: "SHaRP"		

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the City continues to pursue Provincial and other external funding towards the 2002 SHaRP program.
2. That Council authorize the 2002 SHaRP program for watershed stewardship and environmental enhancement activities to proceed with City funding be set at \$200,000.
3. That a copy of this report be forwarded to Surrey's MLA's, MP's and the Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to apprise Council of the 2001 SHaRP program and seek authorization for the activities to be undertaken by the students in the SHaRP program during the summer of 2002 with respect to watershed stewardship.

BACKGROUND

The SHaRP program started in 1996 utilizing 18 high school and post-secondary students during the summer for the purpose of fish habitat enhancement. Through the following five years, the program has grown in size and scope, evolving to a more integrated approach to watershed restoration. Recent projects have included:

- Sensitive Habitat and Inventory Mapping
- Upland stream restoration and enhancement

- Agricultural stream enhancement
- Community education displays and events
- Minnow trapping
- Trail deactivation
- Community partnerships

Our program is unique amongst municipalities due to its size, its integrated watershed-based approach, and its commitment to career-oriented leadership training for local youth.

This program is overseen by the Engineering Department with the day-to-day management being provided by Dillon Consulting Ltd., who has successfully managed all previous SHaRP programs.

2001 SHaRP Program

In 2001, the SHaRP program hired 15 post-secondary Team Leaders and 28 Surrey high school students for a total of 43 students. These students were divided into the following seven teams:

- Community Education
- Public/Media Relations
- Water Quality/Benthos
- Watershed Environmental Enhancement
- Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping (SHIM)
- Agricultural Stewardship
- Parks Enhancement Team

The funding breakdown for the 2001 program was as follows:

City of Surrey	\$350,000
Provincial "E Team"	111,300
School District No. 36	25,000
Youth Options B.C.	<u>7,200</u>
Total	\$493,500

Funding for 2002 SHaRP Program

We have been informed that the Provincial E-Team program has been eliminated and that there will be no Provincial funding for the SHaRP program for 2002. However, at a meeting between the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission and Surrey's MLA's, the MLA's were sympathetic towards the program and requested background information so that they could review it with their colleagues with regards to Provincial Government Funding. Through a letter from the Mayor this material has been provided to them.

The City is also pursuing funding from the Federal Government through the Green Plan for Agriculture to conduct agricultural stewardship on riparian lands and the Summer Career Placement Program. These are “matching funds” programs whereby their contribution would match funding allocated towards this component of the program by the City of Surrey. With regard to other funding, we just received notice that the School District will provide \$25,000 in funding for 2002.

The SHaRP program fulfills two roles, namely fishery habitat protection / restoration and summer youth employment/training. Both these roles are almost entirely a Provincial and Federal mandate; consequently, should funding not be confirmed by the Provincial and Federal Governments by April 26, the 2002 SHaRP Program may be cancelled by the City. The following level of funding for 2002 is available from the City plus has been applied for from the Federal and Provincial Governments:

General Drainage Utility	\$150,000
Cost Recovery from Capital Projects	50,000
School District 36	\$25,000
Provincial Funding *	115,000
Federal Funding *	25,000
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Total	\$365,000

** Funding applied for but not confirmed.*

Proposed 2002 SHaRP Work Program

Based on the above assumed funding, the 2002 program would comprise of up to 9 team leaders and 28 high school students working in the following areas:

- **Watershed Environmental Enhancement**

The priority for this year is based on enhancement works that complement existing City projects that are ongoing. We believe that the Watershed Environmental Enhancement team can provide significant environmental and habitat enhancements in conjunction with the City's capital projects. In 2001, the City constructed the Guildford Pond and Surrey Lake; extensive native vegetation plantings will be carried out at these and other aquatic habitat locations.

- **Water Quality/Industrial Education**

The tasks in the Water Quality/Industrial Education component will complement the ongoing monitoring demands of Drainage and Environment projects being undertaken by the City.

- **Agricultural Stewardship**

The Agricultural Stewardship component garners considerable positive feedback from the community as their work is primarily focussed on the Little Campbell River, a watershed with many active community

partnerships. Note this work item is subject to Federal Green Plan for Agricultural funding.

· **Media & Public Relations/Education**

The Media & Public Relations/Education component presents the visible component of the program that is essential to the overall success of SHaRP.

These four work areas were selected on the basis of their contribution to enhancing existing City projects, restoring and enhancing creek and stream locations, as well as the benefits perceived by the general public and government agencies.

CONCLUSION

As in other years, the primary benefit of the SHaRP Programs remains fishery habitat, restoration and protection; however, important spin-off benefits are the employment opportunities and experience for Surrey secondary and post-secondary students. For these reasons, the City is actively pursuing funding from the Provincial and Federal Governments.

Should Provincial and Federal funding not be received, then the City may have to consider an overall cancellation of this year's program.

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General Manager, Engineering

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