



Corporate *NO: R010*

Report *COUNCIL DATE: February 3, 2003*

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| REGULAR COUNCIL | | | |
| TO: | Mayor & Council | DATE: | January 28, 2003 |
| FROM: | General Manager, Engineering | FILE: | 4803-905 |
| SUBJECT: | 2003 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program (SHaRP) | | |

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council authorize the 2003 SHaRP program for watershed stewardship and environmental enhancement activities to proceed with City funding be set at \$200,000.
2. That the City continues to pursue external funding towards the 2003 SHaRP program.
3. That a copy of this report be forwarded to Surrey's MLA's and MP's.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to apprise Council of the 2002 SHaRP program and seek authorization for the activities to be undertaken by the students in the SHaRP program during the summer of 2003 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. 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.

2002 SHaRP Program

In 2002, the SHaRP program hired 7 post-secondary Team Leaders and 15 Surrey high school students, for a total of 22 students. These students were divided into the following five teams: Community & Industrial Education, Public/Media Relations, Water Quality, Watershed Environmental Enhancement and Agricultural Stewardship.

Funding sources for the 2002 program were as follows:

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| City of Surrey | \$200,000 |
| HRDC | 33,000 |
| School District No. 36 | 25,000 |
| B.C. Agriculture Council | <u>20,000</u> |
| Total | \$278,000 |

Funding for 2003 SHaRP Program

The City is pursuing funding from the Surrey School District, which has been a partner since the inception of this program, the Real Estate Foundation through their existing programs, the B.C. Agriculture Council, through the Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative (AEPI), and Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) for the labour component of the project.

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 the 2003 SHaRP Program will be scaled back to match available funding. The following level of funding for 2003 are proposed:

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|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| General Drainage Utility | \$190,000 |
| Parks Recreation & Culture Department | 10,000 |
| School District No. 36 Funding* | 25,000 |
| B. C. Agricultural Council * | 20,000 |
| HRDC * | 33,000 |
| Real Estate Foundation* | <u>20,000</u> |
| Total | \$298,000 |

* *Funding to be applied for but not confirmed.*

Proposed 2003 SHaRP Work Program

Based on the above assumed funding, the 2003 program would comprise of up to 6 team leaders and 18 high school students working in the following areas:

- **Watershed Environmental Enhancement**

The Watershed Environmental Enhancement team can provide significant environmental and habitat enhancements in conjunction with the City's capital projects. The ravine assessment report commissioned in 2002 identified numerous erosion areas in creek systems which could use some enhancement and environmentally sensitive erosion protection works.

- **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 focused on in-stream works projects with many active community partnerships. Note this work item is subject to the B.C. Agricultural AEPI 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 pursuing funding from the Provincial and Federal Governments.

Paul Ham, P. Eng.

General Manager, Engineering

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