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# Corporate Report

NO: R188

COUNCIL DATE: September 8,

2003

**REGULAR COUNCIL** 

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: August 5,

2003

FROM: General Manager,

FILE:

8310-01

Engineering

**SUBJECT:** Roberts Bank Container Port Expansion

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council request that the Port of Vancouver include Surrey in the social/economic impact study of proposed Roberts Bank Container Port expansion and take mitigation measures to minimize noise, vibration and dust impacts on Surrey residents due to the resulting increase in rail traffic.

# **INTENT**

That Council indicate a position to the Port of Vancouver regarding planned expansion of Roberts Bank Container Port; namely, that Surrey be included in the social/economic impact study phase of the project and that the Port Authority include measures in the project to minimize the impacts of expansion on Surrey residents.

# BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Port Authority is proposing to expand container handling facilities at Roberts Bank in Delta. The increased capacity is expected to result in a doubling of the train movements on the B.C. Railway tracks through Surrey, along Colebrook Road. (A previous information memo to Council on this subject is appended.) The Port Authority, as part of its planning process, is conducting a socio-economic impact study and is seeking external input.

Mr. Bob Campbell, President of the West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers' Association, appeared before Council-in-Committee as a delegation on Monday, June 16, 2003. At this time, on behalf of the residents of West Panorama Ridge, he voiced concerns that the Port expansion will further exacerbate existing train problems such as noise, vibration and dust, and result in diminished quality of life and reduced property values. He requested that Council indicate its support for the recognition of these issues by the Port Authority by means of participation in/input to the socio-economic study and by requesting the Port Authority to take measures dealing with the mitigation of the noise, vibration, and dust caused by the train traffic.

#### DISCUSSION

The planned port expansion is projected to increase train traffic by over 100% over the next twenty years. The resulting neighbourhood impacts due to increased noise, vibration and dust are a valid concern for residents of Surrey. To mitigate these concerns the project could, for example, include the installation of gated crossing protection at level railway crossings which then allows for the imposition of a whistling ban. Train whistling, particularly during night-time hours, is a major part of noise impact. Council's support for the residents' concerns, through input to the project socio-economic impact study, will add further legitimacy to those concerns and "add more weight" with the project proponent.

## **CONCLUSION**

Increased rail traffic resulting from the planned expansion of the Delta Roberts Bank Container Port will result in impacts to the residents of Surrey along the B.C. Railway corridor. By requesting input to the project socio-economic impact study and that mitigation measures be incorporated into the project, Council can support Surrey's residents in the resolution of their concerns regarding the Port expansion.

Paul Ham, P.Eng. General Manager, Engineering

KZ/brb Attachment

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