



Corporate Report

NO: R245

COUNCIL DATE: November 24,

2003

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: November 18, 2003
FROM: General Manager, Engineering FILE: 5280-23
SUBJECT: Mosquito Control in the Greater Vancouver Region

RECOMMENDATION

That Council support the coordinated approach to mosquito control in the Greater Vancouver Region, as proposed by the GVRD Board resolution of June 25, 2003 (Attachment 1).

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's support for the proposed coordinated approach to mosquito control and monitoring in the Greater Vancouver Region, as described in the June 27, 2003, resolution of the Greater Vancouver Regional District Board.

BACKGROUND

The GVRD Board is requesting that member municipalities provide their support for a GVRD led and coordinated approach to regional mosquito control as a means of effectively dealing with the anticipated arrival of West Nile Virus (WNV) in 2004. Specifically, the GVRD proposes to take the lead in coordinating municipal mosquito control, WNV monitoring and mapping programs, and to approach the Province on behalf of the municipalities to request financial support for such programs. The GVRD is also proposing to request that the Province take responsibility for any larviciding and/or adulticiding programs required for community health reasons as opposed to nuisance reduction activities.

DISCUSSION

The issue of mosquito monitoring and control has become significant with the impending arrival of WNV in British Columbia. While virus infections in B.C. have not yet been documented, the western spread will likely continue, making its presence in the GVRD probable next year or in 2005.

Surrey has been conducting a nuisance control program, administered by the GVRD, since 1996. With the increased risk of WNV, comprehensive monitoring programs and mosquito control programs have now been recommended by the Regional Health Authorities. To date, no additional Provincial funding has been offered to help municipalities implement such programs.

Following discussions with municipal officials within RAAC and REAC, the GVRD has suggested that the most appropriate approach to regional mosquito control would be to request the Province take responsibility for the adulticide and larvicide programs that are required for community health reasons through its Public Health Agencies, and to work with the municipalities on the public education/notification requirements. It was also suggested that the GVRD coordinate municipal monitoring and mapping programs and that Provincial financial assistance for such programs be sought.

There are some implications to Surrey if the GVRD and member municipalities follow this approach. The most

obvious way for the GVRD to coordinate the municipal monitoring and mapping programs would be to expand the existing GVRD-administered nuisance control program that Surrey is a part of. If this is the case, there should be some recognition of the financial contribution that has been made to the program by the four existing member municipalities over the past number of years. Therefore, a smaller proportion of the costs for mapping of mosquito breeding areas and management of the program should be borne by these four municipalities. The other main issue is that a clear division between "nuisance" mosquito control and mosquito control for health reasons will need to be defined. It is anticipated that several member municipalities (including Surrey) will continue to need to treat mosquitoes from a nuisance point of view, while other municipalities (i.e., North Shore municipalities) may want/require less or no nuisance control.

CONCLUSION

Although the mosquito control program currently being implemented within Surrey is adequate for nuisance control, having a more comprehensive mapping and monitoring program in place throughout the GVRD will be of benefit to Surrey when WNV arrives in the Lower Mainland. In addition, Provincial funding to deal with the increase in mosquito control that may be required for community health reasons would be beneficial to the City. The approach suggested by the GVRD is, therefore, recommended for Council support.

Paul Ham, P.Eng.
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PH/VL/REJ/brb
Attachment

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Attachment 1

GVRD Mosquito Control Memo Dated June 25, 2003

