



# Corporate Report

NO: R172

COUNCIL DATE: July 19, 2004

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council                      DATE: July 15, 2004

FROM: General Manager,  
Engineering                                  FILE: 5600-15

SUBJECT: New Water Shortage Response By-law

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council adopt the GVRD Water Shortage Response Plan, as a basis for the new Water Shortage Response By-law,
2. That Council authorize the Clerk to introduce the Water Shortage Response By-law, 2004,
3. That Council authorize the Clerk to introduce a by-law to amend Surrey Waterworks Regulation By-law, 1969, No. 2932, and
4. That Council authorize the Clerk to introduce a by-law to amend the Municipal Ticket Information Utilization By-law, 1994, No. 12508.

## INTENT

Adopt a new Water Shortage Response Plan as developed in conjunction with the GVRD and other municipalities in the region, to manage potential water shortages.

## BACKGROUND

The original Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP) was first prepared by the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) in 1993 as a tool to reduce demand for water during the summer months, and in the event of water shortages due to unforeseen emergency situations at any time of the year. The goal of the WSRP is to manage discretionary uses of water in a manner which minimizes the impact on residents and does not impose unnecessary economic hardships on businesses. The most familiar component of the WSRP are the lawn sprinkling regulations.

The WSRP is enacted by each member municipality by implementation of a municipal bylaw which enables municipal staff to enforce the water restrictions. So far this has been implemented by the District of North Vancouver and will be going to Council for consideration in Vancouver and Coquitlam the same week as Surrey.

The current water sprinkling regulations (1993 WSRP), are contained in Surrey's Waterworks Regulation By-law, 1969, No. 2932. In order to simplify the Waterworks By-law and get the new sprinkling restrictions in place this season, a separate by-law has been created for the new WSRP.

In 2004, the original WSRP was revised based on:

- (a) Analysis of extensive public input during the summer of 2003;
- (b) Analyses of best practices and similar water shortage plans from other jurisdictions;
- (c) Technical analysis of summer water use within various commercial sectors;
- (d) Experience with the 1993 WSRP;
- (e) Input from the GVRD, municipal staff including the REAC Water Subcommittee; and
- (f) Input from the GVRD Water Committee and public delegations to that committee.

Key changes from the 1993 WSRP to the revised 2004 WSRP include:

- Combining Stages 1 (public education) & 2 (twice-weekly sprinkling restrictions) of the 1993 WSRP into a single Stage 1 automatically enacted on June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- The addition of a new Stage 4 containing water restrictions to be enacted only in cases of severe water shortages or extreme emergency situations.
- The addition of an 'At-A-Glance' summary of the WSRP (refer to attached Table 1).
- More uniformly applied watering restrictions on private and commercial lawns.
- More explicit wording of water use restrictions and new restrictions on certain activities not previously mentioned in the WSRP (e.g. uses of water such as fountains and pressure washing).
- The addition of a water shortage assessment chart (refer to attached Figure 1), showing the percentage of total storage and the assessment zone when the GVRD considers whether to increase supply from the Coquitlam source and/or to act on the WSRP. This information is found on the GVRD's website and is updated weekly.
- Fines will be increased from \$50 per offence to \$75, \$100, \$200, and \$300 for offences under Stage 1 to 4 respectively.

The revised 2004 WSRP was approved by the GVRD Board at its meeting on May 26, 2004.

## CONCLUSION

Council's adoption of the new Water Shortage Response By-law will enable Municipal staff to implement the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Water Shortage Response Plan consistently with other municipalities of the GVRD.

Paul Ham, P.Eng.  
General Manager, Engineering

VL/JLU/rdd  
Attachment

