

Corporate Report

NO: R107

COUNCIL DATE: June 23, 2008

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: June 20, 2008

FROM: General Manager, Engineering FILE: 4806-913

SUBJECT: Process to Complete Fish Habitat Works in Campbell Heights Business Park -

Phase I

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

BACKGROUND

The Phase 1 component of the Campbell Heights business park development required that fish habitat be relocated and reconstructed to allow the development to proceed. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) approved the works prior to the original construction commencing. Under the DFO authorization, the City has until September 15, 2009, to complete the habitat construction works and is required to monitor the effectiveness of the constructed habitat until 2014. Local environment interest groups, the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) and other key stakeholders have raised concerns regarding the effectiveness of the fish habitat that has been constructed to date as part of the Phase I development in Campbell Heights.

To address the concerns and ensure a sound and balanced approach in relation to completing the habitat works, City staff has undertaken a program of consultation with the community, the EAC and the environmental interest groups that expressed concerns and has also established an Expert Review Panel to review the construction plans that have been prepared for completing the habitat works in the Campbell Heights Phase 1 development.

DISCUSSION

Local environmental groups, the City's Environmental Advisory Committee and the public were invited to provide feedback on the City's plans to complete the Campbell Heights Phase 1 habitat construction and to suggest improvements or alternatives to the habitat works that have been constructed to date and that are planned for construction.

The plans and related information were made available to these groups through direct contact and emails and to the public by the plans being posted on the City's website. The intention was to provide the various environmental organizations and streamkeepers in Surrey an opportunity to review and provide comments and recommendations on the plans. To date, five (5) submissions have been received by the City from the key environmental organizations and from Surrey residents. One submission was from a consortium of key stakeholders representing the Little Campbell Watershed Society, the Surrey Off Road Cycling Enthusiasts, the Surrey Environmental Partners, the Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club, the Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society and the Green Timbers Heritage Society. Another set of comments was received from members of the City's Environmental Advisory Committee. Comments were also received from A Rocha Canada. Two comments were received from individual members of the Surrey Environmental Partners and the Fraser Valley Conservation Coalition. The Expert Panel will provide recommendations based on all information received.

Staff also organized an independent Expert Panel to review the comments and recommendations that have been received and determine how best to incorporate them into the plans for completion of the habitat works. The Campbell Heights Expert Review Panel (Expert Panel) is comprised of Registered Professional Biologists with extensive expertise in fisheries and habitat restoration. The expert review panel is coordinated by the City's Environmental Coordinator, who is also a Registered Professional Biologist. The Expert Panel is comprised of the following individuals:

- Paul Schaap, R.P.Bio. Dillon Consulting Paul has been responsible for the City's SHaRP Program for many years and is very familiar with the Campbell Heights area;
- Rolf Sickmuller, R.P.Bio. ECL Envirowest Consulting;
- Michael Coulthard, R.P.Bio. Diamond Head Consulting; Michael is a terrestrial biologist who has worked throughout Surrey in vegetation and forestry management such as Sunnyside Acres Forest; and
- John Werring, R.P.Bio. John is a fisheries and wildlife biologist who has been following the transition of the area over the years, often advising local groups.

The Expert Panel has been tasked with reviewing the City's plans to complete the habitat construction works within the Phase 1 area and the comments and recommendations that have been received from the various interest groups and individuals as noted above and to provide the City with recommendations as to how to best complete the environmental work in the Phase I area. The Expert Panel was to reach consensus on its recommendations for completing the Phase 1 habitat construction.

City staff met with the Expert Panel on-site to discuss the habitat construction work to date. Staff also reviewed with the Expert Panel the plans that are being prepared for correcting deficiencies in the habitat work and for fully completing all other necessary habitat work. The meeting consisted of a short review of original design drawings and a thorough ground truthing of the existing habitat compensation sites along 26 Avenue, 194 Street and 20 Avenue corridors.

The Expert Panel met again with City staff on June 16 and provided preliminary recommendations during this one-day review of the plans and public comments.

City staff is currently consolidating the Expert Panel's recommendations and priorities into revised plans to complete the Phase 1 habitat construction works. These revised plans will be presented to DFO for approval. Once the plans are approved by DFO, City staff will meet with the key stakeholders to present the final habitat construction plans derived from the public consultation process and the Expert Panel's review. It is anticipated that the meeting with the key stakeholders will occur in early July 2008. These plans will also be available for the public to view on the City's website.

Once the finalized habitat construction plans are approved by DFO and presented to the key interest groups, a further report will be provided to Council prior to construction of the habitat works proceeding. The work will be undertaken during the "2008 fisheries window", which starts at the beginning of August.

CONCLUSION

The City has undertaken an extensive process of consultation with key interest groups regarding deficiencies with the habitat compensation and restoration works in Phase I of the Campbell Heights Business Park. An Expert Panel has also reviewed the construction plans and made recommendations to the City with due regard to the comments received by the City from community environmental interest groups and others. The plans are currently being revised in accordance with the recommendations from the Expert Panel and once finalized will be forwarded to DFO for approval. Subject to DFO approval the final plans will be once again presented to key interest groups prior to proceeding to construction during the 2008 fisheries window, which starts at the beginning of August.

Vincent Lalonde, P.Eng. General Manager, Engineering

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