



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** September 25, 2012
From: Cecilia Achiam, MCIP, BCSLA **File:** 10-6125-04-01/2012-Vol 01
Interim Director, Sustainability and District Energy
Re: Update on the Enhanced Pesticide Management Program

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report dated September 25, 2012 regarding Update on the Enhanced Pesticide Management Program from the Interim Director, Sustainability and District Energy be received for information.

Cecilia Achiam, MCIP, BCSLA
Interim Director, Sustainability and District Energy
(604-276-4122)

Att 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE			
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Finance Division	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Parks Maintenance and Operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Community Bylaws	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
REVIEWED BY SMT SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS:

Staff Report

Origin

The Enhanced Pesticide Management Program (EPMP) was adopted by Council on April 27, 2009 and has been brought forward to Council on an annual basis for three years. On April 23, 2012, Council approved continuation of the program on a temporary basis until the Province takes action on the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes.

This report provides an update on the 2012 EPMP highlights and the status of the Provincial *Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides* Report recommendations.

Analysis

Since the adoption of the EPMP in 2009, the City has taken a leadership role in the: advancement of research and new generation pesticide products and practices (e.g. corn gluten meal and purchase of an *Aquacide* machine unit); delivery of a variety of popular and well attended natural gardening and lawn care workshops for the community; development of outreach programs for pesticide retailers and industry landscape professionals; and restrictive nature and rigorous application of the Pesticide Use Control (PUC) Bylaw No. 8514, (e.g. fewer Bylaw exemptions and voluntary non-use of cosmetic pesticides on hard surfaces). The technical expertise required for the continued improvement and advancement of the EPMP and related subjects (e.g. invasive species management and control) has grown considerably since the adoption of the Program.

Highlights of the 2012 EPMP is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Through the three years of the EPMP delivery, staff continuously reviews emerging research and techniques, recommending appropriate and effective products and practices specific to manage the City's landscape. These recommendations include training, monitoring programs, pilot projects, adoption of new products, acquisition of new machinery and ongoing data collection in collaboration with Parks and Engineering Operations staff. Provision of this technical expertise positions the City to move forward with programming and best practices that serve to reduce parks maintenance costs in the long term. The City has become known for its leadership role in this area (e.g. *1st Integrated Pest Management Best Practices Field Day*, *Aquacide* equipment unit, corn gluten meal pilot, education/training sessions for Parks staff and local landscape businesses, etc.).

In 2012 the EPMP has broadened in scope to assure an ever-increasing target audience (i.e. city staff, retailers, landscape industry and community) and to support complementary initiatives. These include support for City Operations staff in practical invasive species management as well as collaboration with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for the control and eradication of an aggressive new invasive plant species to the province, the common reed that poses a significant threat to municipal drainage systems and cranberry operations (i.e. *phragmites*). The program has also evolved to include educational and outreach opportunities such as the City's Earth Day Celebrations, coordination of the Richmond Earth Day Youth (REaDY) Summit and the Climate Change Showdown. Since the adoption of Provincial and

municipal regulations preventing the use of traditional cosmetic pesticides across the country, there has been a significant increase in new generation pesticides and techniques to control pests.

Richmond is one of only three municipalities to receive a \$5000 provincial grant to manage noxious weeds. The provincial government has recently reallocated the City's grant from enforcement to education and outreach for 2013. This was in part based on the recent change from a noxious weed specific enforcement to a broader invasive species management mandate, which resides with Environmental Sustainability rather than with Community Bylaws.

Provincial Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides:

As reported in the May 18, 2012 memorandum to Mayor and Council, the *Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides* Report (REDMS #3537078) contains 17 recommendations to achieve the goal of reducing pesticide use throughout the province, and ensuring safe and proper use of approved products by unlicensed applicators. The recommendations do not include the support for a provincial wide ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides. Although the Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides tabled the report in May 2012, the Province has yet to provide information regarding timelines for review of the Report by the Legislative Assembly. As a result, it will continue to be necessary for the City to maintain and enforce Bylaw 8514 and manage it accordingly using City resources.

2013 EPMP:

The EPMP has been included in the utility budget since Council adoption in 2009. There was a reduction in the overall budget after the first year of the program in 2010 relating to advertising of the PUC Bylaw. The past two years of funding have remained consistent and no increases to the Program budget are proposed for the 2013 utility budget process.

The total financial impact of the EPMP is \$139,169: 61% TFT staff salary; 28% enforcement TFT; and 11% community outreach. The 2012 program's funding has been approved by Council for 2012 and is funded in the Sanitation and Recycling utility budget. As in past practice, the 2013 program will be included in the 2013 Sanitation and Recycling utility budget for consideration by Council. As this is a continuation of an existing level of service, if approved, there will be no impact to the 2013 utility budget and rates as a result of maintaining the TFT Environmental Coordinator position to manage the EPMP.

EPMP Costs		Percentage
TFT Environmental Coordinator (1.0 TFT, salary and benefits)	= \$ 84,687	61%
Education and Community Partnerships	= \$ 15,000	11%
TFT Bylaw Enforcement (0.5 TFT, education, patrols and response)	= \$ 39,482	28%
TOTAL COST	= \$139,169	100%

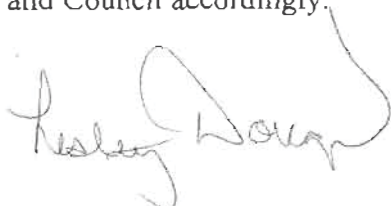
If in the future, the Province takes action towards a regulation, staff will bring back a report to Council to consider elimination of the EPMP staff components.

Financial Impact

This report has no financial impact.

Conclusion

The City's EPMP continues to garner considerable recognition across the province due to the comprehensive and responsive nature of the program adopted by Council. The EPMP was modeled upon successful cosmetic pesticide programs and strategies that combine strong education and outreach programming to support the PUC Bylaw compliance. Ongoing program success is contingent upon continuation of the level of service for the EPMP components which include: *Corporate Reduction; Education and Community Partnership; Senior Government Regulation; and Municipal Regulation*. Staff will continue to build upon the innovation, best practices, outreach and regulatory opportunities to maintain the ongoing leadership of the Program. Provincial Legislative Assembly proceedings related to the *Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides* Report will continue to be monitored and updates will be provided to Mayor and Council accordingly.



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LD:jep

Attachment 1	2012 EPMP Highlights	REDMS #3684503
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2012 EPMP Highlights:

- Approximately 3500 PUC Bylaw Information, and Environmental Sustainability Workshop brochures distributed (including 1000 in Chinese):
 - To City facilities,
 - To the general public during City Events,
 - To local pesticide retailers at point of sale.
- 34 *Natural Gardening* and *Lawn Care* workshops, including 1 in Chinese;
- Advertisements and promotion for the PUC Bylaw and *Natural Gardening* and *Lawn Care* workshops (e.g. local newspapers, Parks, Recreation and Culture Guide, City website, community events etc.);
- Information booth on *Natural Gardening and Pest Solutions* during City Events and at Steveston Farmer and Artisan Markets;
- Responded to approximately 80 information and complaints calls, e-mails and front of house requests, to support compliance with the Bylaw;
- Staff visited Richmond cosmetic pesticide retailers in early Spring and late Summer;
 - All retailers now provide the City PUC Bylaw and Education program information at point of sale,
 - Three retailers continue to offer only Permitted Pesticides in their stores,
 - One traditional pesticide retailer has ceased operations,
 - One pesticide retailer has ceased the sale of traditional pesticides.
- Continued to improve the City's in-house monitoring program to determine the efficiency of Parks and Recreation's use of corn gluten meal for the Sports Field Herbicide Program. The success and methodologies of the program were also shared with neighboring municipalities;
- Parks Operations purchased a new "Aquacide" equipment unit, using steam and heated water to kill weeds, reducing the reliance and costs related to horticultural vinegar use;
- Parks Operations hosted the *1st Integrated Pest Management Best Practices Field Day* to learn and share Best Practices with other Metro Vancouver municipal parks managers and staff (~30 attendees, including industry);
- Community Bylaws continued to promote public awareness and compliance of the PUC Bylaw by conducting weekend patrols and inspections during the months of May, June, July and August 2012. A total of 262 residents and 25 landscaping business operators were provided with compliance instructions pursuant to the Bylaw;
- While no violation tickets were issued for the use of pesticides, 6 municipal tickets were issued to landscapers conducting business in the City without a valid business licence;
- The City's PUC Bylaw continues to be cited as a *model* bylaw to regulate the cosmetic use of pesticides in the province.
- Continued and improved the giant hogweed Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) program by providing advanced notice and information to known and new property owners with giant hogweed infestations. This resulted in a dramatic decrease of reports and complaints throughout the summer of 2012 (13 reports 2011, 3 reports 2012);

- Assisted 8 residents to respond to giant hogweed reports, concerns and removal information on their property;
- Participated in the development of a regional and local response plan for European fire ant infestations;
- Continued to collaborate with the provincial invasive plant EDRR program in identifying potential invasive Phragmites habitat in Richmond;
- Respond to City staff and community information calls on invasive species (e.g. purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, English ivy, parrot feather);
- Lead community stewardship projects involving noxious weeds and other invasive plant removal in natural areas (e.g. parks, riparian management areas, environmentally sensitive areas).