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**TO:** CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2016 March 29

**FROM:** DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 39500-00

**SUBJECT:** WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

**PURPOSE:** To inform Council on the amendments approved by Metro Vancouver to the Water Shortage Response Plan and seek Council's approval on incorporating the amendments to the City's Waterworks Regulation Bylaw.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** council authorize the preparation of a bylaw to amend the Waterworks Regulation Bylaw to implement the changes to the Water Shortage Response Plan approved by Metro Vancouver, as outlined in Section 2 of this report.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Environment Committee.

**REPORT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP) was developed in 2003, and updated in 2004 and 2011, to reduce demand during the summer months (when high demand and low rainfall can strain water shortage capacity) and in the event of water shortages due to unforeseen emergency situations at any time of the year. The WSRP is implemented by each of the GVWD member municipalities through individual municipal bylaws. Burnaby incorporated the original WSRP into its Waterworks Regulation Bylaw.

The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the amendments approved by Metro Vancouver to the Water Shortage Response Plan and seek Council's approval on incorporating the amendments to the City's Waterworks Regulation Bylaw.

## 2.0 AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

In 2015, Metro Vancouver region experienced record setting weather conditions and unseasonably high water demand starting mid-May. According to Metro Vancouver, total consumption for May/June was approximately 20% higher than the same period in 2014. Given the needs of the growing region, weather pattern changes and implementation concerns raised by various stakeholders and the public during the summer of 2015, Metro Vancouver Board, in November 2015, approved a two phased process to review and update the 2011 WSRP. Phase 1 includes the amendment of specific elements within the WSRP to address key implementation concerns raised by local governments, businesses and the public during the summer of 2015. Phase 2 involves a comprehensive technical review and stakeholder consultation program to produce an updated WSRP in time for the 2017 summer season.

In proceeding with the Metro Vancouver Board decision in November 2015 and the outcome of the Phase 1 consultation process, Metro Vancouver Board, in February 2016, approved amendments to the WSRP.

The key amendments approved by Metro Vancouver Board to the WSRP are:

- Extending the activation period for Phase 1 of the WSRP from June 1 - September 30 to May 15 - October 15;

*Comment: This will assist in reducing the overall water demand.*

- Allowing water to be used by commercial cleaning services for aesthetic cleaning during Stage 2 of the WSRP; and

*Comment: This will make it consistent and equitable with other businesses allowed to operate in Stage 2.*

- Allowing local government exemption permits issued in Stage 2 for watering new lawns or for treatment to control the European Chafer Beetle to remain valid during Stage 3 of the WSRP until they expire.

*Comment: This will prevent the public's loss of investment in new turf or nematode treatment for the purposes of reducing the spread of the European Chafer Beetle infestation.*

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From: Director Engineering  
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### 3.0 CONCLUSION

Given the needs of the growing region, weather pattern changes and implementation concerns raised by various stakeholders and the public during the summer of 2015, Metro Vancouver initiated a review of the 2011 WSRP and approved amendments to the Plan for the 2016 summer season. Additional amendments may be made to the WSRP after the completion of comprehensive technical review and consultation in fall of 2016. Staff supports the amendments outlined in Section 2 of this report and are seeking approval from Council to incorporate the related amendments to the City's Waterworks Regulation Bylaw.



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DD:ac

Copied to: Deputy City Manager  
Director Parks Recreation and Cultural Services  
City Solicitor